Bengaluru Sunday, May 3, 2026 Pages 28 Vol 79 No 122 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Relations between India and Iran very good and strong: Hakeem Ilahi

P10

Travel *Page17*

Truly magical

Discover the charms of Spain's Trujillo where the medieval and the modern are in perfect harmony

Art & Pursuits *Page19*

The eye that saw India

Raghu Rai wore his genius lightly while teaching generations to understand why every frame matters

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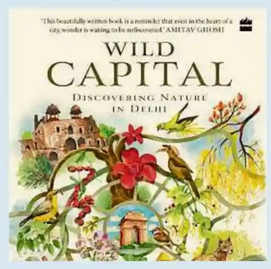


Beyond Delhi's smog

This is a lyrical, sharp-eyed exploration of the capital's hidden biodiversity that urges readers to look around them

Food & Drink *Page18*

City of joy

From the intriguingly named fish liver gin to mutton pantheras, savour dishes special to Kolkata

Plastic waste: Managed on paper, burnt in reality

India's amended plastic rules prioritise compliance markets over true circularity, while civic bodies continue to struggle with collection and recycling

SHREE D N & PAVAN KUMAR H
BENGALURU/HUBBALLI, DHNS

A recent plastic waste fire in Rampura, northeast Bengaluru, released toxic fumes into the air, with residents blaming weak regulatory enforcement for recurring incidents.

For years, residents of a gated villa community on Bengaluru's north-eastern fringe have been exposed to smoke from plastic burning. A plastic shredder unit nearby burns low-value plastic because it is not economically viable to recycle it, and there is little oversight or accountability.

A 'factory' with no signage or name was identified by residents as the culprit. Repeated complaints to authorities failed to resolve the issue, but instead drew threats from vested interests, leaving residents afraid to speak out.

Plastic burning began on most days early in the morning, sometimes between 3 and 4 am. A recent major fire at the unit was described as a "cylinder blast," and fire services were alerted only after residents intervened.

"Cylinder blast means we would hear it. We knew they were lying," a resident who preferred anonymity told *DH*.

"This has become a norm. We have children, and we are worried about our health with constant inhalation of burnt plastic," says the resident. The burning continues, while the complaints go unheard.

INSIGHT

This is the state of plastic waste management in Bengaluru, despite it being the capital of Karnataka and having well-established municipal systems and guidelines in place. One can only imagine what is happening in tier-2 cities and villages, where consumerism and plastic use have permeated, yet no systems are in place to handle plastic waste.

A recent study by researchers from the Divecha Centre for Climate Change at the Indian Institute of Science and the Vellore Institute of Technology confirms this. It detected microplastics in drinking water drawn from 10 of 11 sampled borewells, at depths ranging from 60 to over 100 metres, across Tumakuru, Ballari, Raichur, Chikkaballapur, Koppal and Kolar. Residents in affected villages are estimated to ingest about 1,100 microplastic particles annually through drinking water alone, according to the study, placing them at significant health risk.

India has had plastic waste management rules, but they have largely remained on paper, as the recycling system accepts only high-value plastic and there are no systems in place to handle light-weight, low-value plastic.

Aiming to reduce the use of new plastic, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026 on March 31.

▸ Plastic waste, Page 4

Rising risks of a changing monsoon

ANIKA DHIMAN & SHWETA GUPTA

The SUNDAY STORY

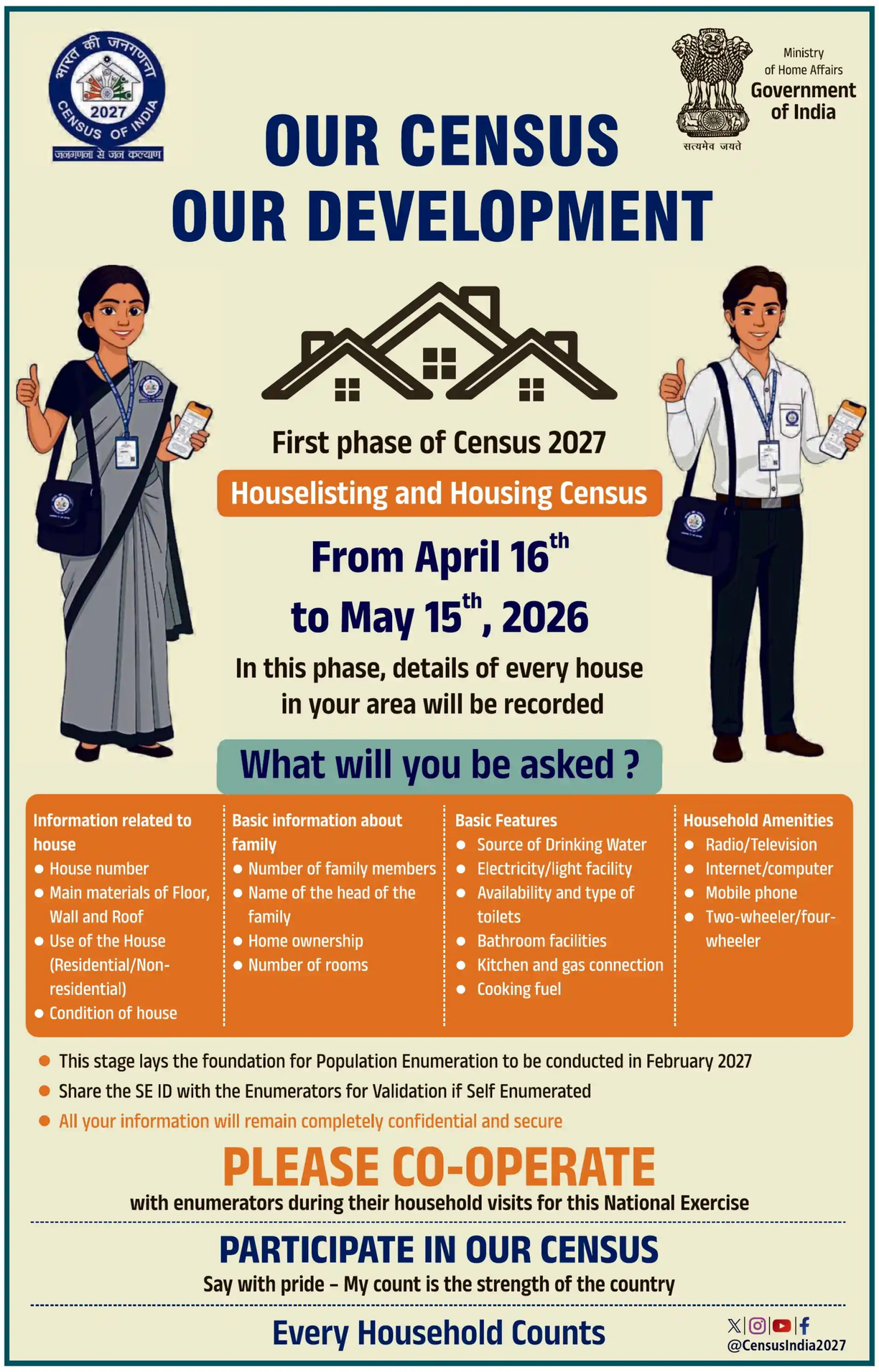
The India Meteorological Department expects a slightly below-normal monsoon this year, at about 92% of the long-period average. The possibility of a 'super El Niño' adds further uncertainty. With nearly half of India's net sown area — contributing around 40% of food production — being rainfed, even small rainfall deviations can disrupt sowing cycles, reduce yields and threaten food security. While extreme events like droughts are known to severely affect agriculture, smaller variations from normal can be equally damaging, especially without strong systems to support climate-resilient farming.

A farmer harvests Ragi near Chikkamagaluru. PTI

The idea of a 'normal' monsoon can be misleading. A national average may appear stable, but it can mask sharp regional variations, leaving some areas far more exposed than others. Repeated small disruptions also point to a system that responds better to crises than it prevents them.

The real issue is not just total rainfall but its timing and distribution. In recent years, the monsoon has become increasingly erratic. Even when overall rainfall appears 'normal,' uneven distribution can cause serious problems, including delayed sowing, damage during critical crop stages, sunk costs and repeated replanting.

▸ Changing monsoon, Page 4


भारत की जनगणना
2027
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Government of India
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OUR DEVELOPMENT
First phase of Census 2027
Houselisting and Housing Census
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to May 15th, 2026
In this phase, details of every house in your area will be recorded
What will you be asked ?
Information related to house
House number
Main materials of Floor, Wall and Roof
Use of the House (Residential/Non-residential)
Condition of house
Basic information about family
Number of family members
Name of the head of the family
Home ownership
Number of rooms
Basic Features
Source of Drinking Water
Electricity/light facility
Availability and type of toilets
Bathroom facilities
Kitchen and gas connection
Cooking fuel
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SC rejects TMC plea on central staff for counting

Says EC has right to pick officials; upholds Calcutta HC order

Voters wait to cast their votes during a repoll in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Saturday. PTI

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Saturday declined to entertain a plea by the Trinamool Congress against the Election Commission's circular to appoint central government staff as supervisors and assistants during the counting of votes of the Assembly elections scheduled on May 4.

The apex court disposed of the plea, which challenged the Calcutta High Court's April 30 decision, saying no further orders were necessary.

A special bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Joymalya Bagchi observed that the Election Commission was within its rights to choose counting personnel and that its April 13 circular could not be faulted.

The court said that TMC should give the government employees some credence.

"There is yet another fallacy in the argument that those belonging to the state government have a different allegiance...these are employees," the bench said.

The poll panel informed the court that the circular clearly provided for a mix of central and state government employees, and rejected the TMC's apprehensions of wrongdoing as misplaced.

The EC also assured the bench the circular will be implemented in letter and spirit.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the TMC, submitted that the party came to know about the April 13 circular only on April 29.

He urged the court to ensure its implementation as issued.

The bench, however, pointed out that the Election Commission could select counting personnel from the central government pool.

Senior advocate D S Naidu, representing the EC, said the returning officer — a state government employee — had overarching powers to deploy personnel from any pool of government employees.

Justice Bagchi questioned the necessity of approaching the apex court if the TMC wanted compliance with the circular. The bench noted that no further orders were required. The bench said it cannot hold that this notification is contrary to the regulation since one is a central government officer, but the others are not.

▸ SC, Page 7

Backing the EC

- Court says TMC should give the government employees some credence
- Bench points out that EC could select counting personnel from the central government pool
- Says there is a fallacy in the argument that those belonging to the state government have a different allegiance
- Says there was no illegality in EC's decision to appoint counting supervisors and assistants from central government

"To choose wholly from one pool cannot be said to be incorrect.
- Supreme Court Bench

'Fresh' poll in Falta on May 21

In a rare move, the Election Commission (EC) on Saturday ordered a "fresh" election in all the 285 polling stations of the Falta Assembly seat in West Bengal on May 21 due to what is said was "subversion of democratic process". Page 9

Iran military official says renewed war with US 'likely'

Trump had said he was unsatisfied with Tehran's proposals

TEHRAN/DUBAI, AGENCIES

A senior Iranian military officer said on Saturday that renewed fighting between the US and Iran was "likely", hours after President Donald Trump said he was "not satisfied" with a new Iranian negotiating proposal.

Iran delivered the draft to mediator Pakistan on Thursday evening.

"At this moment I'm not satisfied with what they're offering," Trump told reporters, blaming stalled talks on "tremendous discord" within Iran's leadership.

"Do we want to go and just blast the hell out of them and finish them forever—or do we want to try and make a deal?" he added, saying he would "prefer not" to take the first option "on a human basis".

The proposal would open shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and end the US blockade of Iran while leaving talks on Iran's nuclear programme for later, a senior Iranian official said on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Jafar Asadi, a senior figure in the Iranian military's central command, said "a renewed conflict between Iran and the US is likely".

"Evidence has shown that the United States is not committed to any promises or agreements," he added.

▸ Iran, Page 7

West Asia crisis

- Trump tells US lawmakers that hostilities in Iran ended, as he comes under pressure to seek authorisation from Congress for war
- Prez Trump says US Navy was acting "like pirates" as he described an operation seizing an Iran-linked ship recently
- US warns shipping companies of sanctions if they make payments to Iran to pass through Strait of Hormuz
- Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon kill at least seven despite a ceasefire

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CM discusses divestment, questions delays

BENGALURU, DHNS

Disinvestment in state public sector undertakings, especially the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL), to allow private sector participation was discussed at a review meeting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had with top secretaries on Saturday.

Siddaramaiah met additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries and secretaries to review budget implementation and administrative delays.

The disinvestment proposal

for PSUs was sent to the Cabinet 10 months ago, but no decision has been made, Siddaramaiah was told.

Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) Gaurav Gupta told the meeting that a report is being prepared on what other states have done.

"The matter has been brought to the notice of the (energy) minister and a decision is pending," Gupta said.

Siddaramaiah intervened and asked why no discussion has been held on the issue.

In the 2025-26 Budget, Siddaramaiah announced the creation of an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) at KPTCL to raise Rs 5,000 crore.

This is still awaiting government approval.

The state is exploring InvITs for power transmission projects, allowing it to raise funds from private investors while maintaining long-term state control over the assets.

The government is under pressure to find newer resource avenues and is actively considering asset monetisation among other resource mobilisation measures.

The Public-Private Partnership Policy (2025) targets 15 key sectors, including energy and transport, to generate revenue by leasing underutilised state land and buildings to private participants for upfront or periodic payments.

▸ Disinvestment, Page 7

Peacock deaths: ICAR confirms avian flu

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Health and Family Welfare department has confirmed the presence of H5N1-Avian influenza in peacock samples collected from Tumakuru. As many as 44 peacocks were reported dead from a few villages in Tumakuru district in mid April. The samples were sent to ICAR/NIHSAD, Bhopal, and the results were out on April 29. A surveillance zone of 3–10 km radius was established.
Details on Page 7

RTC unions call for strike from May 20

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Trade Unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporations has called for an indefinite statewide strike starting May 20. The strike, which is expected to ground buses from KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC starting at 6 am, follows the failure of recent talks between union leaders and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

Jyothi Ananthasubba Rao, president of the KSRTC Staff and Workers Federation, said the unions had demanded a 25% salary hike effective from January 2024.
Details on Page 5D

North K'taka reels under heat

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Several parts of Bidar, Raichur, Yadgir and Kalaburagi districts reported extreme temperatures that went beyond 44 °C on Saturday.

Kalaburagi's Kalagi and Chincholi taluks recorded the highest maximum temperature in the state, with 45.4 °C in Kalagi, 45.3 °C in Kodli and 45 °C in Ainapur hoblis.

The extreme heat condition is expected to continue till May 5 in several parts of North Karnataka, especially the Kalayana Karnataka region, said a release from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC). It also stated that nearly 74% of the state recorded temperatures in excess of 36 °C.

A woman covers face and uses umbrella to escape high temperature in Hubballi. DH FILE PHOTO

KSNDMC Scientist Sunil Gavaskar said the IMD predicted the next three days could be very hot. "However, we are expecting relief as the IMD also predicts that the state could receive summer showers accompanied by thunder and gusty winds in May."

The KSNDMC has also issued warning of heavy rains in parts of south interior Karnataka between May 4 and 8, with likely thundershowers accompanied by gusty winds with speed 40-50 kmph in Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Ramanagara, Bengaluru (Rural), Bengaluru (Urban), Chamarajanagara, Mysuru, Mandya and Kodagu districts.

Coastal Karnataka is expected to continue with dry and humid conditions and occasional summer showers.

Bengaluru will witness light to moderate rain/ thundershowers accompanied gusty winds (40-50 kmph) at isolated places towards evening and night. Maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 35 °C and 22 °C, respectively.

Dharwad seat vacant as Assembly secretariat notifies Vinay Kulkarni's disqualification

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Legislative Assembly secretariat on Saturday notified the disqualification of Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni following his conviction in the case related to the murder of BJP leader Yogeshgouda Goudar, declaring the Dharwad Assembly seat vacant with effect from April 15, 2026.

A notification issued by Assembly Secretary M K Vishalakshi stated that Kulkarni stands disqualified from the membership of the House from April 15, the date of his conviction by a Bengaluru court, and under Article 191(1)(e) of the Constitution, read with Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The court had awarded life imprisonment to Kulkarni. Under the law, any legislator convicted for an offence carrying a sentence of two years or more stands disqualified from the date of conviction. The disqualification continues for six years after the convict's release from prison.

Kulkarni was arrested by the CBI in 2020 on the charge of conspiring to murder Gowda, who was hacked to death in his gym in 2016.

Earlier, Speaker U T Khader clarified that disqualification upon conviction is "automatic" and the Speaker has no adjudicatory role beyond issuing a formal intimation.

Unless Kulkarni secures a stay on his conviction from an appellate court, the Election Commission will have to initiate the process for a by-election as a casual vacancy in a state Assembly is usually to be filled within six months.

Kavitha looks to forge her own legacy

Former MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha's announcement of the Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) landed with deliberate precision. The BRS, originally founded as the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), had been renamed by its founder KCR — also Kavitha's father — when he pivoted towards national ambitions. By reviving the TRS acronym, Kavitha appeared to be reclaiming the ground her father had "abandoned".
P 9

PILING UP

Rising e-waste, weak recycling choke Karnataka

DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka produces 3-4 lakh tonnes of electronic waste annually, according to an estimate by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), but the state doesn't have enough capacity to process all this waste. Of the 230 e-waste processing units with a permit to operate in the state, only 99 units are operational, and they have a total capacity to process only 2.18 lakh tonnes.

While the capacity is lower, even the existing processing units are working at 50-60% of their capacity, owing to poor collection and awareness among people.

According to those running recycling companies with permits from the KSPCB, there is a need for a change of mindset among people.

"My company has been in this field since 2012. In all these years, we have never processed e-waste to our full capacity. There is a need for a cultural mindset shift among people. Also, in many cases, people expect that we pay them when we collect e-waste. Collection, transportation, processing, and all costs put together, it does not fetch us much. There is a need for policy intervention here to incentivise recycling," said Dileep Kumar S, co-founder of Peenya-based 4R Recycling Private Limited.

Experts opined that the volumes are understated and around 7-8 lakh tonnes of e-waste are generated in the state annually.

"There is a need to strengthen the value chain. Right now, only close to 30% of the potential is being tapped into. This has to be channelised and informal collectors should be recognised. Given that metals are getting expensive, tapping into e-waste could generate close to Rs 3,000 crore in revenue," said A V Manjunatha, head of the Centre for Ecological Economics and Natural Resources at the Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC).

▸ E-waste, Page 7

Untapped potential

- KSPCB says state produces **3-4L tonnes** e-waste annually
- Some experts say actual figure could be **7-8L tonnes**
- **230 e-waste** processing units have permit
- Only **99 units functional** (2.18L tonne capacity)
- Efficient processing of e-waste could **fetch Rs 3,000 cr**

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The plastic footprint

India produces nearly **26,000 tonnes** of plastic waste each day, accounting for nearly 20% of the total global plastic waste

It generates about **0.12 kg of plastic waste** per person per day, lower than in many Western countries

In March, the **Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026,** were introduced

Despite regulations, poor waste collection, inadequate recycling systems, **unscientific disposal** and **low public awareness** hinder implementation

9.3 million tonnes
Annual plastic waste generated in India as per 2024 estimates

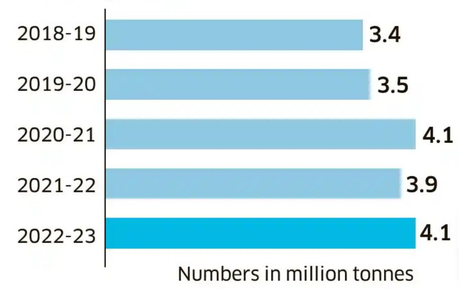
3.5 million tonnes
Plastic released to environment as debris each year

5.8 million tonnes
Plastic waste incinerated each year

11 kg per year
Per capita plastic consumption

3,051
Registered plastic waste processors

Plastic waste up 23% in 5 years



Numbers in million tonnes

Daily plastic waste from households in India

12 crore
milk pouches discarded daily

868 crore
instant noodle wrappers discarded each year

2,680 crore
plastic detergent packets used annually

330 crore
cooking oil pouches discarded every year

3.5 lakh tonnes
of plastic waste produced from online food deliveries each year

Why plastic waste remains a problem

- The absence of official recycling data makes it difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of plastic waste management
- Around 5.8 million tonnes of plastic waste is openly burnt each year
- Nearly 30% of plastic waste is dumped in uncontrolled landfills
- Banned single-use plastics account for about 43% of plastic waste
- While official figures peg waste collection at 95%, studies estimate the actual rate at around 81%, pointing to gaps in data accuracy and management
- There is no reliable and up-to-date data on plastic production and waste

The EPR ecosystem

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) obligates producers (P), importers (I) and brand owners (BO) to take responsibility for the lifecycle management of plastic products and packaging they introduce into the market
- Under the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026, PIBOs must use a minimum share of recycled plastic in packaging, with category-wise targets increasing annually
- Companies that miss 2025–26 obligations can carry forward the shortfall for three years if they meet at least one-third of it annually

Low producer enrolment despite high pollution footprint

Stakeholders	Number of registrations	% Share
Producers (P)	5,529	6
Importers (I)	52,249	85
Brand owners (BO)	3,674	9
Total	61,452	100

EPR action

1,989 tonnes
Single-use plastic items seized since July 2022

Rs 19.83 crore
Fine levied on violators

207 lakh tonnes
Plastic packaging waste recycled after the EPR guidelines came into force in 2022

Misaligned incentives

- Households have no strong incentive to segregate
- Collectors are paid for volume, not quality
- Facilities are not rewarded for precision
- Recyclers prioritise cost over purity
- Producers focus on compliance, not outcomes

EPR: Finance over impact

Plastic waste, from Page 1

The amendment mandates that rigid plastic packaging must now contain at least 30% recycled material in 2025–26, rising to 60% by 2028–29. In addition, the new plastic can now, in theory, be tracked from source to shelf.

Companies can carry forward unmet targets for up to three years. They can also buy recycling credits instead of managing their own waste. The rules address organised, branded plastic. The rest—low-value scraps, thermocol and multi-layered wrappers that no recycler will touch—is classified for 'end-of-life' disposal, which essentially means incineration.

"Multilayer plastic packaging has no recycling facility. It can only be treated with end-of-life facilities (incinerators)," says an official from Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) that handles waste in the metropolis of Bengaluru.

In the city, such low-value plastic is used as refuse-derived fuel (RDF) and sent to a waste-to-energy plant in Bidadi, where it is burnt. Some of it was also sent to a cement factory, where it is used in cement production, but it also involved transportation costs. Though the arrangement is no longer functional, the BSWML received an EPR credit ranging from Rs 70 lakh to Rs 1.8 crore for co-processing 18,625 tonnes of plastic waste.

This system is set to continue under the new rules. However, the story across the rest of Karnataka is starkly different, with the system breaking down right from the stage of waste collection.

Reality in districts

The loud jingles played every morning from garbage-collecting tippers operated by the Hubballi-Dharwad Mahanagara Palike convey a clear message about segregating waste into dry and wet categories. Yet, Sandeep (name changed), a pourakarmika in Vidya Nagar, Hubballi, collects waste from houses and dumps it into the same compartment of the tipper.

He says, "A few houses might segregate their waste. But a majority do not. Due to a lack of space in the tipper, we end up mixing all the waste together."

Though the twin cities' civic body is attempting to streamline solid waste disposal, tonnes of mixed waste is dumped at the landfill on Karwar Road on the city outskirts every day. Residents living near the dump yard often complain of foul smell and breathing difficulties, especially when mixed waste containing plastic catches fire — something that happens quite frequently.

Like most civic bodies in Karnataka, Hubballi relies on unorganised ragpickers to collect plastic waste. The limited quantity of plastic collected or segregated at waste compactors is either sold to cement factories or scrap dealers. "Only 10% of the total plastic waste generated in the twin cities is segregated and sold to dealers for recycling. The rest is stacked at the dump yard," says an operator at a compactor unit.

Aarthi Sachdeva, Lead Knowledge Development at Saahas, a Bengaluru-based NGO working on sustainable solid waste management and source segregation, says the new amendments to the Plastic Waste Management Rules are based on Circular Economy principles but are largely a play of words until there is a viable resource recovery ecosystem for all categories of plastics. In the current format, they do not address the core issue of plastic waste management on the ground.

"We already have mechanisms to address recyclable plastic, and even without additional incentives, that will be taken care of because there is an existing revenue model," she says. According to her, the amendments fail to address the core problem: non-recyclable plastic.

"The existing guidelines have not been able to create a viable revenue stream for non-recyclable plastics. Unless collecting and processing low value plastics becomes a reliable source of income, scientific disposal will remain impossible," she says.

"Urban local bodies have the prerogative to manage door-to-door collection and aggregation of waste under Solid Waste Management Rules. They cannot be burdened with finding solutions for wicked problems of waste," she adds.

Collection remains a challenge

The Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026, significantly strengthen the role of civic bodies by making them central to implementation, monitoring and enforcement at city, taluk and gram panchayat levels.

Earlier, local bodies were the primary agencies responsible for the collection, segregation and recycling of plastic waste. However, the 2026 amendments, which were gazetted on March 31, add the responsibility of ensuring that companies adhere to their Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) obligations.

Multiple Zilla Panchayat (ZP) CEOs told *DH* that while the new rules are "perfect" on paper, implementation remains a major challenge. Most local bodies are financially constrained and lack adequate human resources and infrastructure to address solid waste management, including plastic.

The state government has entrusted the collection of solid waste to women-led self-help groups (SHGs). "For the initial six months, the state government provides remuneration to the SHGs. After that, each gram panchayat must generate funds to pay the salaries of the tipper driver, waste collectors and coordinators. As the collection of recyclable plastic is very low, gram panchayats are unable to generate sufficient revenue to sustain solid waste operations," said Davangere ZP CEO Gitte Madhav Vithal Rao. He added that several gram panchayats across the state have not cleared bills for the past six months.

Thirthahalli Executive Officer Shaila N said that solid waste collection is particularly challenging in the Malnad region, where gram panchayats and hamlets are located in remote areas. "Wet waste is not a major issue here, as people use it to make manure. But solid waste, especially plastic, is difficult both to collect and dispose of," she said. She added that most gram panchayats do not generate enough recyclable plastic to attract regular visits from dealers, resulting in waste accumulating at dump yards.

Thus, despite meetings and workshops by the authorities on managing plastic waste, the gap between theoretical training and on-the-ground implementation remains wide.

Another challenge is the emphasis on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the role of local bodies. Officials point out that while it is relatively easier to collect fees from or penalise multinational companies and large brands for non-compliance, implementing EPR for smaller or unbranded producers remains a major challenge.

"In rural areas, products from non-branded companies or cottage industries are more common. Tracing such producers is difficult. So how can we penalise them or ensure they fulfil their EPR obligations?" asked another ZP CEO.

Plastic burning, formalised

If implemented properly, with the right incentives for stakeholders, the Rules can stop the open burning of plastic. But burning is now considered a valid method of disposal and can generate EPR credits equivalent to those earned through recycling plastic.

The Rules have included the use of plastic waste in waste-to-oil conversion, road construction, co-processing in cement and steel industries and energy recovery at waste-to-energy plants (burning) under the 'end-of-life disposal' category.

With 2026 Rules, we have institutionalised a system of burning plastic—read incineration — as a valid compliance," says Pinky Chandran, an independent researcher.

She observes that plastic EPR in India is moving towards a market-based governance framework, and is increasingly becoming merely a financial compliance exercise. While the 2016 Rules emphasised the 'polluter pays' principle and strengthened plastic waste management through source segregation, recycling and the integration of waste pickers and recyclers into collection, the 2022 amendment shifted the architecture towards a financial compliance mechanism.

"The current system has been designed as a credit market. 'Buy more' has become the mantra in order to achieve compliance," she says.

"If the goal was actual circularity, the push should be towards PIBOs collecting their own waste, by supporting dry waste collection centres or material recovery facilities through capex and opex, paying the true market rates to waste pickers or through financial obligations of supporting the municipalities," she adds. "We also need to compulsorily redesign packaging and invest in reuse systems," she says.

Recycled packaging push

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

The new plastic waste management rules now mandate up to 60% recycled content in rigid food packaging. Rigid packaging refers to containers used by companies like Swiggy and Zomato.

Suryasarathi Bose, a scientist and professor of Materials Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, says that the way plastics are currently collected, sorted and handled is inefficient. "The plastic has to be clean and free of contamination," he explains.

The same applies to every category of plastic, he adds. "All of them are collected and shredded separately. Even mixing two categories can be a problem."

Even recycled plastics can be recycled again, provided they don't lose certain properties—particularly mechanical strength, says Bose. "FSSAI is asking recyclers to follow an ISO standard that specifies the percentage of recycled plastic in a product. That's a traceability requirement," he adds.

A recycler's view

Srichakra Polyplast processes segregated plastic into plastic pellets. Satish Kumar Gunturu, the company's chief operating officer, says the company receives pre-segregated plastic, and the final washing and decontamination of plastic are done at the company's facility.

He says the material, or feedstock, is in demand among plastic and textile manufacturers. "Technically, I think 60% usage in food-grade plastic may be a little ambitious, but it can be achieved as brands adopt the solution and demand grows."

"The challenge is generating enough feedstock for both sectors, given the contaminated plastic coming through the collection system," he adds.

Manufacturers push back

Vijaya Kumar V, president of the Karnataka State Polymers Association (KSPA), says implementation is becoming increasingly cumbersome. "Producers of packaging material convert raw material into packaging material and supply it. We do not pack the product. Yet, we have been targeted more in the guidelines through stricter environmental compensation," he says.

He says there is little clarity on how EPR is being rolled out. "There are lakhs of queries on the website that remain unanswered. In Karnataka alone, we have raised queries since 2022 that are yet to be addressed," he says.

The new rules

1. The Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026, notified on March 31, build on the 2016 Rules and later amendments, especially the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime introduced in 2022
2. The amendment broadens key definitions like "end-of-life disposal" and "plastic waste processor," including energy recovery, waste-to-oil conversion, and co-processing in cement and steel industries
3. The rules allow companies to buy and sell recycling certificates
4. Urban local bodies, gram panchayats and district authorities are empowered to enforce compliance. They can restrict/prohibit certain plastic products and ensure proper waste management within their jurisdiction
5. The rules mandate registration of environmental auditors and introduce stricter monitoring mechanisms. A state-level monitoring committee will oversee implementation, ensuring accountability at all levels

Mandatory use of recycled plastic in plastic packaging

	% of plastic packaging manufactured, imported or used year-wise as per new amendment			
Plastic packaging	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29 onwards
Category I	30%	40%	50%	60%
Category II	10%	10%	20%	20%
Category III	5%	5%	10%	10%

Source: Centralised EPR portal, PIB, Plastics for Change portal, Nature, Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group, Recircle, Legal Mantra, media reports

COMPILED BY **DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI** DH GRAPHIC: **SAGAR M S**

Changing monsoon, from Page 1

From short-term crisis response to long-term system resilience

In other words, a near-normal monsoon can still lead to poor outcomes. Even small shifts in rainfall patterns can ultimately affect farmers, markets, the government and the wider economy.

India does have some safeguards. Buffer stocks help ensure food availability when supply is disrupted and the government has used export controls during El Niño years to manage price rises. However, these measures have limitations, as implementation is uneven and they often involve difficult trade-offs. While rice and wheat are well stocked, pulses and oilseeds remain far less secure. At the same time, policies such as open-market sales and export restrictions can sometimes work against each other. They may lower prices below the Minimum Support Price, hurting farmers even as they aim to protect consumers. This trade-off creates a persistent tension between keeping food affordable and ensuring farmers earn a sustainable income.

Importantly, these interventions are largely reactive. While they may help manage short-term disruptions, they are not sufficient to address rising climate variability and volatility. As weather patterns become more unpredictable, the focus must shift from responding to crises to building systems that can withstand them.

Gaps in the system

The deeper challenges lie in the structural issues of Indian agriculture. Despite several government schemes focused on irrigation, insurance and procurement, significant gaps in implementation persist. For instance, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) aims to expand irrigation coverage and improve water-use efficiency. However, bureaucratic delays, low awareness and unequal access — especially for small and marginal farmers — limit its impact. These challenges are further compounded by differences in how states implement such programmes.

As a result, water-intensive farming practices continue, and farmers remain vulnerable to risk.

Even with a normal monsoon, regional rainfall surpluses or deficits can sharply reduce crop yields. For farmers, especially small and marginal holders, who account for nearly 89% of landholdings, this directly impacts income, as many lack irrigation, savings or reliable insurance and often depend on informal credit.

At the broader level, this affects the wider economy. Lower farm incomes reduce rural spending, which can slow economic growth. Even the expectation of a poor monsoon can lead households to cut back on consumption and increase savings.

Moreover, food inflation adds another layer of risk, accounting for about 37% of overall inflation and being highly sensitive to supply fluctuations. Fear of shortages can also trigger hoarding and price spikes, creating a self-fulfilling cycle where speculation itself fuels inflation. The burden falls most heavily on vulnerable groups, widening inequality and the rural–urban divide.

Building a more resilient system

Addressing this challenge requires a shift from reactive to proactive policy design. This includes promoting climate-smart agriculture practices that use water efficiently, strengthening crop insurance systems and improving local weather information services. It is equally important to ensure these solutions reach small farmers and are tailored to local conditions.

In this regard, technological initiatives that provide real-time, localised climate information to farmers are a step in the right direction, helping them respond to small variations before they turn into major losses. For example, the Government of India recently launched Bharat-VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources), an AI-powered digital public infrastructure that offers timely, accurate and localised climate and agricultural information to farmers.

However, the impact of such interventions will depend on widespread adoption and institutional support.

Small changes in rainfall may not grab headlines, but their impacts are widespread and accumulate over time. In a future shaped by climate uncertainty, these subtle shifts could pose the biggest challenge. It is therefore essential to recognise and address this invisible risk. Without strengthening the system's ability to absorb frequent, moderate shocks, small deviations risk snowballing into large-scale disruptions.

(Anika Dhiman is an analyst in the Adaptation and Risk Analysis team, and Shweta Gupta is a senior associate in the Sustainability team at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP)).

Bengalureans see monthly expenses climb 8-15% amid West Asia crisis

BENGALURU, DHNS

Two months after the West Asia crisis triggered an LPG shortage, its financial impact continues to be felt in everyday life in Bengaluru. For some families, monthly expenses have risen by 8-15%, with prices increasing for groceries, auto rides and even puja flowers.

People are cutting back on eating out on a whim, celebrating birthdays at home, cooking simpler meals that use less LPG, or relying on induction stoves. These changes have not been easy. Saanvi Satish says her family's electricity bill doubled after switching to induction cooking. "Food took longer to cook and was often undercooked. So we have returned to LPG, but we still keep our meals simple. Earlier, our lunch had two sabzis and two curries. Now it's usually just one," she says.

Property adviser Aftab Ali has cut back on buying clothes and shoes, and on travelling across the city to meet relatives. With restaurants raising prices and trimming menus, many people are ordering less. However, he cannot. "My wife has not been keeping well. We depend on hotel food," he says.

For Kalyani, a domestic worker, the situation is tighter. She says the prices of rice, cooking oil and vegetables have gone up, while her household income has fallen. "My husband is an auto driver. His daily earnings have dropped from Rs 300 to Rs 200. Now, I buy groceries based on how much he earns each day," she says.

Jayasheela, a gig worker, has been eating outside for the past two weeks since she ran out of cooking gas. "My daughter goes to a government school, so her meals are taken care of," she says.

Food habits are changing too. George Dimitrov says his family, which earlier had non-vegetarian food three to four times a week, now cooks it just once. "Even then, it's something simple, like a minced meat soup," says the assistant professor of political science. "I have a commercial gas connection, and the price has gone up from Rs 1,200 to Rs 2,400," he adds.

The impact has gone beyond food. Alice Mathew, head of the political science department at a college, says she is "topping up" petrol in her car every three to four days in anticipation of a price hike. Dimitrov, meanwhile, is refuelling more often as roads near his college are frequently blocked by autos waiting to refill LPG. "I take longer diversions now," he says.

In Whitefield, Priya Ranganathan has stalled construction of her house since mid-March. "We had six to seven labourers staying on site. We couldn't ensure a regular LPG supply for them to cook," she explains.

For some, the only way to cope with rising expenses is to work more. Ramesh Kumar, a security guard, says the crisis has come on top of general inflation and has hit his savings hard. "I have been working every day instead of on alternate days to make ends meet."

Steep LPG hike leaves city eateries with little choice

Restaurants revise menus as supply crisis worsens

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A steep hike of Rs 990 in the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders has sparked outrage among hoteliers across the city, who warn that the surge will sharply raise operating costs and inevitably push up food prices for consumers. Numerous restaurants in the city have increased the prices of most food items by Rs 10.

Many restaurateurs told *DH* that they had already been suffering because of recent price hikes and that many had to pay double the price and procure cylinders from the black market. The new price increase is a huge blow to the industry.

Shriram Sukumar, a manager at a restaurant in Uttarahalli, said, "We have increased the prices from today. Masala dosa is up by Rs 8. Coffee and tea remain the same because of our electrical set-up to prepare them. Lunch prices are also up by Rs 10."

The manager said they had no other choice but to raise prices.

Naveen Kumar, a restaurant manager in Padmanabhnagar, said, "People come to our restaurant for dosa. We did not want to increase prices initially, so we set a time limit for when dosa would be available. But now, despite that, we will struggle to make even thin profit margins, so we have decided to raise the price. The dosa that was Rs 70 will now be Rs 80."

Popular restaurant chains in South Bengaluru, known for offering good-quality food at reasonable prices, have also resorted to increasing prices.

While many customers said the impact would not matter much to them because they ate outside only on weekends, others said they had no choice but to eat out and that the price hike had made a significant difference to them.

Abhishek Gowda, a customer and IT employee, said, "I am from Channarayapatna. I live here for work. I stay in a small room where I cannot cook, so I have to depend on restaurants every day for all my meals. The price increase is significant and creates a hole in the pockets of people like us."

Chaat shop owners have also decided to raise prices. Srinivas S, a chaat shop owner, said, "We have to keep the masala burning. People ask for chats to be hot, so we have to spend a lot on gas for it. So we have resorted to increasing prices. One plate of masala puri was Rs 35 in our shop; now it is Rs 45."

Hotels' association seeks GST cut on LPG

The Karnataka State Hotels' Association on Saturday urged the government to immediately reduce the GST on 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders from 18 per cent to 5 per cent. The demand comes in the wake of the price of commercial LPG being hiked by a steep Rs 993 per 19-kg cylinder on Friday, marking the third straight monthly increase due to rising global energy prices linked to the West Asia conflict.

G K Shetty, president of the association, said the hike of Rs 1,308 in 60 days announced by the government through oil marketing companies is the sharpest increase in recent times. Prices have risen from roughly Rs 1,800-Rs 2,000 in March to over Rs 3,100 now, he said, with the total increase ranging from 50% to 70% within 60 days, depending on the base city and timing.

"If immediate corrective measures are not taken, businesses will have no option but to pass on the increased costs to consumers, making eating out more expensive and affecting overall demand," he said.

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Parking row turns violent: Woman alleges assault, delay in FIR

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 28-year-old woman employed at a private firm has alleged that she was assaulted and verbally abused by two men following a dispute over parking in Vasanthnagar, and that police initially refused to register her complaint.

The complainant, Amreen, said the incident occurred at around 3 pm on April 29 in front of her residence. She alleged that her neighbour, Wasim, a scrap dealer, had parked his two-wheeler near the house. She had been objecting to the parking as her one-year-old child frequently played outside and she feared the vehicle could fall on the child.

On the day of the incident, when she again asked Wasim to remove the bike, he allegedly became enraged, slapped her and pushed her onto a nearby shoe stand. His brother, Nisar, also allegedly joined him in abusing her with derogatory remarks.

The complainant further alleged that when she initially approached High Grounds police, they refused to register her complaint. The FIR was registered later after she approached a political party worker in the city.

Based on the complaint, police have now booked the accused and are verifying CCTV footage before taking further action.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Golden Jubilee Celebration: Organised by the Alumni of Gandhi Vidya Shaala (1976–1977 batch); Dr B R Ambedkar Bhavan, Millers Road, Vasanthnagar; 10 am.

Inauguration of Senior Citizens' Shelter and Rehabilitation Center: Ramalinga Reddy to inaugurate; Dr C N Manjunath to preside; awards presentation by M Krishnappa; Sri Sadguru Adhaar Foundation, #46, Arkesh Woods, 7th Main Road, Nobo Nagar; 10 am.

Basaveshwara Jayanthi and Sharana Mukuta Award Presentation: Guests include C Somashekar and B Swarnagauri; Dinesh M N to preside; award to be presented to Go Ru Channabasappa; Veerashaiva Seva Samaja; S M Kalyan Mantap, Jaraganahalli, Kanakapura Road; 10 am.

CULTURAL

Rajadhani Bhajanotsava: Kunitha Bhajana competition at 8 am; inaugurated by Mohandas Paramahamsa Swamiji; guest Bharathi Shetty; valedictory at 5.45 pm in the presence of Veerendra Heggade; presided by Dinesh Hegde B; Tulu Koota Bengaluru; Buntara Sangha, Vijayanagar.

International Dance Day & Srishti National Awards: Presentation of awards by Chandrashekhara Kambara to Pratibha Prahlad and B Jayashree; guests include Ramalinga Reddy, Tejasvi Surya, Shalini Rajneesh, and M A Saleem; Bharatanatyam by Pratibha Prahlad followed by 'Karimayi' musical play; Srishti and Rotary District 3191; Ravindra Kalakshetra, J C Road; 5.30 pm.

'Ka-Midi Show' (Kannada Comedy): Solo performance by Veerappa Maralawadi; Gandharva; Nayana Auditorium, Kannada Bhavana, J C Road; 10.30 am.

Drama Performance: 'Iddaga Nimdu Kaddaga Namdu' directed by Asif Kshatriya and Shwetha Srinivas; Rangaratha Indian Performing Arts Institute and Kalapremi Foundation; Seva Sadan Auditorium, Malleshwaram; 4 pm and 7 pm.

Chiguru Rangotsava Valedictory: T S Nagabharana to be present; Rangagaurava to be presented to Ramakrishna Belthur; performance of play 'Lekkakuntu Atakkilla' by Spashta Theatre; Bhagavataru Cultural Organisation; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 7 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Thunderstorm with rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	34.4°C
Minimum	22.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	40%
Sunset (May 3)	6:35 pm
Sunrise (May 4)	5:59 am
Moonrise	7:11 pm
Moonset	6:03 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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INDUSTRY JITTERS

Rising rents and stagnant salaries are deepening the strain

Amid AI reskilling, techies face pressure and fear of layoffs

KORAH ABRAHAM
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chants of "Workers of the world, unite!" and "IT union zindabad" rang out across Bengaluru's Town Hall and Freedom Park on Friday as hundreds of tech employees gathered for a May Day rally organised by the Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU) and the All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU).

For a workforce more accustomed to code reviews than street protests, the turnout itself signalled a shift. "We never imagined we would be here," said 29-year-old Ashwini, a software developer working in Electronics City, holding a placard calling for job security. "But things feel very uncertain now. It's not just layoffs, it's the feeling that your role can change overnight, and you're expected to keep up without any support."

Another participant, a data analyst with five years of experience, said the pressure to constantly reskill had begun to blur the boundaries between work and personal life. "After work, you're not really off. You're learning something new - AI tools, cloud, whatever comes next. You're paying for it yourself, and you don't even know if it will help you stay relevant."

The unease visible among the techies who turned up for the May Day rally is increasingly shaping life inside Bengaluru's tech corridors.

What usually stays behind laptop screens found a voice at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Friday, as tech workers came together to protest growing insecurity in the sector. CREDIT: KITU

Rampant violations of labour law

For city-based labour lawyer Avani, these anxieties are unfolding alongside deeper structural concerns. She points to widespread violations of labour protections in the IT sector, from forced resignations to denial of benefits, often going unchallenged because workers are unaware of their rights.

"There are cases where employees are pressured to resign in groups, with threats about their future prospects," she said. "Management frequently avoids negotiation, and workers are left with very little bargaining power."

She added that AI, while potentially useful, is also being used in ways that can disadvantage workers, delaying increments or restructuring roles without transparency.

Reskill or perish

At 11.45 pm, in a one-bedroom apartment in BTM Layout, Aswin is still at his laptop. The workday is long over, but he is not done yet. An engineer with Microsoft, Aswin is watching tutorials, testing tools, and trying to understand how artificial intelligence might reshape the job he thought he knew.

"It's no longer enough to be good at what you do," he told *DH*. "Last year, the company had very clearly communicated to us that the world has changed. And if you don't change with it, you won't have a place here," said Aswin with nervous laughter.

Across companies, employees describe a sharper tone in internal messaging. Aswin recalled that the company leadership had emphasised how existing skills may not suffice in the near future, especially for those hesitant to adopt AI.

Engineers are expected to integrate AI into daily workflows, from writing code to managing processes, with the implicit promise of higher productivity. But that promise comes with pressure. "There's this expectation that output can multiply many times over if you use AI well," he said. "So you're constantly wondering if you're doing enough."

This shift follows a turbulent period for the tech industry. Global giants such as Meta Platforms and Google have cut thousands of jobs while ramping up investments in AI. In April this year, Meta said it would reduce around 10% of its workforce even as it doubled down on artificial intelligence. The same week, Microsoft announced voluntary buyouts in the United States.

In India, the signals have been just as stark. Tata Consultancy Services indicated a 2% workforce reduction in 2025, while Infosys terminated the contracts of hundreds of trainees. Hiring has slowed dramatically: one estimate suggests that India's top IT firms collectively added a net total of just 17 employees in the first nine months of FY26, compared with nearly 18,000 a year earlier.

For many workers, the response has been to invest in themselves. This often comes at a personal cost.

Courses in generative AI, cloud computing and data engineering have become near-essential. But they are rarely funded by employers. "People are spending tens of thousands on courses," said Rashmi (name changed), an employee with Accenture. "There's no guarantee it will lead to stability. But you feel like you have no choice," she added.

For mid-level employees, there is also a sense of being reset. Engineers with several years of experience speak of starting over and trying to catch up with tools that did not exist when they entered the industry.

For freshers, the challenge is sharper still. Campus hiring has slowed, entry-level roles have thinned, and automation is beginning to replace tasks once assigned to juniors. The result is a growing bottleneck, with graduates waiting longer to break into the sector.

Rising cost of living

Beyond offices, the impact is quietly reshaping everyday life in Bengaluru's tech hubs. Rising rents in areas like Whitefield, around Manyata Tech Park and Electronic City, combined with stagnant salaries in some segments, are forcing adjustments, pushing techies into smaller homes, longer commutes and delayed plans.

"It's not that everyone is losing jobs," said the data analyst who attended the rally. "It's that you don't feel secure enough to plan your life anymore. I moved to Bengaluru from my hometown in Odisha because I was offered a package that my hometown could never match. After I came here, because of the high rent, medical bills and cost of commuting, especially with autos increasing fares following the CNG price hike, my quality of life is worse than back home," he added.

17-year-old girl dies by suicide in Nelamangala

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 17-year-old girl who had passed the SSLC examination died by suicide at her aunt's house in Bhairagowdanahalli village in Nelamangala on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Sandhya, who had secured 83% in SSLC.

Police said Sandhya allegedly hanged herself when family members were away in their native place due to her grandmother's health issues.

The incident came to light when they returned home in the evening.

A death note recovered from the spot read, "Sorry, Appa," and contained the phone numbers of three of her friends, asking that they be informed. However, she did not mention the reason that led her to take the extreme step, police said.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the family had recently advised her against frequently going out with friends.

Sandhya had been staying with her aunt, Shailaja, for the past three years for her education.

Her father, Raghavendra, had collected a college application form for her admission.

Based on a complaint, Madanayakanahalli police have registered a case of unnatural death and further investigation is on.

Three killed in separate road accidents in Yelahanka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three persons were killed in separate road accidents reported within the limits of the Yelahanka traffic police station between Friday night and Saturday morning.

In the first incident, an 80-year-old man was killed after being struck by a speeding ambulance near the CRPF campus at Yelahanka Dairy Circle. The deceased has been identified as Srinivas, a resident of Yelahanka.

Ambulance knocks down man

According to police, the accident occurred at around 10 pm on Friday when Srinivas was attempting to cross the road.

An ambulance, allegedly being driven at high speed, knocked him down. Srinivas sustained grievous injuries and died on the spot.

Hospital employee dies

In another fatal accident, a 35-year-old hospital employee died after his motorcycle skidded on Nagenehalli Road. The victim, Shashank, was a native of Odisha and worked at Manipal Hospital.

The incident took place at around 9 pm on Friday while Shashank was returning home from work.

Police said he was riding at high speed when he lost control of the bike and crashed. He suffered fatal head injuries and died on the spot.

Hit-and-run case

A third fatality was reported early on Saturday morning on Kogilu Flyover Road. At around 3 am, an unidentified pedestrian, aged about 35, was killed in a hit-and-run case.

Police said an unidentified speeding vehicle mowed down the man while he was walking on the road.

The driver fled the scene immediately after the collision. Efforts are under way to identify the deceased and trace the offending vehicle. The Yelahanka traffic police have registered three separate cases and are conducting further investigation.

Weak walls, unsafe buildings to be removed across city

The compound wall at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Bengaluru that collapsed during heavy rain, killing seven people. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

BENGALURU, DHNS

After a weak compound wall of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital collapsed and killed seven people on April 29, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Saturday instructed officials to remove compound walls and dangerous buildings that are in a dilapidated condition and pose a risk of collapse.

At many places, officials began identifying and removing weak walls on Saturday. According to a GBA statement, an old wall on Binnymill Road under the Bengaluru Central City Corporation was found to be severely weakened and at imminent risk of collapse.

"Following the recent rains, around 60 metres of the 10-foot-high wall had already collapsed. Consequently, a 25-foot-high, 300-metre-long wall has now been demolished, while removal of an additional 100-metre stretch of the 10-foot-high wall is currently under way," the statement said.

Similarly, the Bengaluru West City Corporation identified a 240-metre-long compound wall at the Mysore Lamps premises on 8th Main Road in Malleswaram as structurally unsafe. Corporation officials immediately demolished the dangerous wall.

The heavy rain and winds caused extensive damage to public and private property. Taking note of the situation, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar had also directed GBA officials to immediately identify hazardous trees, tree branches, dangerous walls and unsafe buildings, and undertake preventive measures to avoid any untoward incidents and inconvenience to the public.

Rao has also asked the commissioners of all five city corporations to personally monitor the situation and form special teams comprising Fire and Emergency Services personnel, police staff and city corporation officials.

"These teams are directed to implement all necessary precautionary measures, considering that the city might receive heavy rain in the coming days. The public should not be inconvenienced," Rao said.

According to the latest update from the GBA, heavy rain on April 29 and May 1 together uprooted close to 444 trees and brought down nearly 1,110 branches.

GBA sets May-end deadline for road asphalting works

Officials told to prioritise footpaths, anti-waterlogging measures

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Saturday instructed officials to complete the ongoing asphalt works within the limits of the Bengaluru West City Corporation and Bengaluru South City Corporation by the end of May.

Rao, who reviewed the progress of asphalting works and monsoon preparedness in the two city corporations, asked officials to personally visit sites where road works have already been completed to inspect the quality of the work.

"Under state government grants, asphalting and comprehensive development works on major arterial and sub-arterial roads, as well as ward-level roads, are currently under way. Officials have been directed to prioritise the completion of footpaths and drainage works and ensure that all asphalting works are concluded by the end of May," a GBA statement said.

Officials were also asked to ensure that preventive measures are put in place so that the public is not inconvenienced during the rains.

"At locations where works have not yet started or are ongoing, priority must be given to developing footpaths and drainage systems. Areas that experienced waterlogging during recent rains should be identified, and steps must be taken to prevent a recurrence. Desilting of drains, cleaning of shoulder drains, and removal of waste must be completed within the next two days," he said.

Officials were also told to prioritise the removal of trees that had fallen owing to the recent rains.

Rao also asked officials to set up a project monitoring dashboard to enable continuous monitoring of the ongoing works. The dashboard should be updated daily with photographs of the works, quality certificates and other details, he said.

Dr K V Rajendra, Commissioner of the Bengaluru West City Corporation, said contractors had been instructed to promptly clear debris left behind after the completion of road works.

Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K N Ramesh said necessary measures had been taken to expedite the completion of asphalting works.

The BMTC bus that crashed into a compound wall near the Manekshaw Parade Ground in Bengaluru on Saturday.
DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

BMTC bus slams into wall, three sustain minor injuries

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three passengers sustained minor injuries after a BMTC bus rammed into a compound wall near the Manekshaw Parade Ground on Saturday.

The incident occurred at around 12.15 pm when the bus was heading towards Anil Kumble Circle from Shivajinagar.

Police said the driver lost control while taking a turn. As he applied the brakes, passengers suffered minor injuries due to the sudden impact.

The injured were shifted to Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital for first aid and are recovering. Cubbon Park traffic police rushed to the spot and inspected the scene.

Couple assaulted after objecting to reckless riding

BENGALURU, DHNS: In yet another road rage incident in the city, a couple was allegedly assaulted by a group of men at Bettadasanapura in Electronics City on Friday evening.

Police said the victims, Soumyadeep Sen and Vaidreemla Pradhan, both from West Bengal, were driving towards Electronics City when two bikers travelling ahead of their car took a sudden turn without any indication. The couple shouted at them for reckless driving. Enraged, the youths allegedly intercepted the couple's car, smashed its windows, pulled Sen out of the vehicle and assaulted him. When his wife rushed to help him, she too was allegedly thrashed.

The incident was recorded on the car's dashboard camera, and the couple was admitted to a hospital. Electronics City police registered a case. "We have identified three accused who thrashed the couple, and all of them are absconding," a senior police officer said.

URBAN WILDLIFE

Monkey menace divides apartment residents in Bengaluru

CHIRAJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The incursion of monkeys (bonnet macaques) into apartments in south and north Bengaluru has become a divisive issue, with some considering the primates a nuisance and worrying about the "exorbitant" cost of their removal, while others see coexistence as a necessity, if not inevitable, due to the lack of a solution.

Studies have shown that the disappearance of forests has forced a shift in the behaviour of bonnet macaques. Instead of foraging for fruits, seeds, insects, eggs and leaves, the simians have begun raiding farms and horticultural plantations. As agricultural fields and orchards on the periphery disappeared, the monkeys became dependent on humans for food, including foraging through food waste.

Till recently, getting permission to remove the monkeys from residential areas was a simple procedure. However, the Union government's move to accord the highest protection to the simians has now made the procedure longer. As per the amended provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, bonnet macaques are Schedule I species, enjoying the same protection as a tiger. The Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka has the power to authorise their relocation.

Relook into relocation

Ganesh V, Assistant Conservator of Forests, said most translocation attempts need to be studied. "Monkeys taken several kilometres away slowly return to the city. In some cases, it looks like the problem has been shifted from one place to another. This needs to be studied carefully, considering that the animals have been accorded Schedule I status," he said.

Of the residents *DH* spoke to, while some stressed the need to remove the simians to ensure the safety of children, at least two said coexistence should be accepted as a solution. "First, we need to fix the basics, like waste management. Secondly, people need to stop feeding them and encouraging that dependency. Lastly, we have to understand that we have built apartments in what were once orchards and farmlands that hosted these animals. So, we have to learn to coexist with them," a resident said.

Complaints across city

Documents show that over the last few months, the forest department has authorised the relocation of monkeys in several apartments, including the relocation of 40 to 60 monkeys in an apartment complex at Narayana Nagar, Doddakallasandra, and the relocation of three monkeys at Nagegowdanapalya in Talaghattapura.

Residents in parts of Kengeri, Uttarahalli, Vajarahalli and Sarjapur in the southeast have submitted complaints to the forest department. In north Bengaluru, Range Forest Officer Varun Kumar said there was a steady flow of complaints.

"We get complaints every week, and some write seeking help to relocate the monkeys. Apartments in Kempapura, Doddagubbi and Vidyaranyapura have submitted requests for permission to relocate the monkeys. We are processing the requests as per the rules," he said.

The rules now mandate that the RFO inspect the area and send a report to the Chief Wildlife Warden. Permission is granted on the condition that the forest officer monitors the operation and ensures that the standard operating procedure is followed.

A forest officer said animal rescuers take risks in capturing monkeys and charge about Rs 5,000 to capture and relocate one monkey. "There is a risk involved in rescuing the monkey. Death of the animal or injury will land the rescuers in trouble. This has made some back away from the job," he said.

DH spoke to animal rescuers who said the simians were unpredictable. "Forest officers carry a rifle while rescuing a leopard. Monkeys can sometimes become aggressive and cause harm. A group of three to five people rescuing 40-60 monkeys is exposing itself to risk," he said.

BDA - e-Auction of Premium Sites in Prominent Layouts

Shri N.A. Haris
Hon'ble MLA, Shantinagar Assembly Constituency & Chairman, BDA

Bid Now!!
Minimum raise of Bid Price in multiples of Rs. 500 per sq. mtr.

The Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru, announces the e-Auction of Residential & Commercial Corner / Intermediate Sites. The auction / sale of these sites is conducted in accordance with the Bangalore Development Authority's Disposal of Corner Sites, Intermediate Sites and other Auctionable Sites Rules, 1984. The sites are auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS.

Date of Commencement of e-Auction: 11.05.2026

Last date & time to express interest of participation in e-Auction: 22.05.2026, 5.00 p.m. IST

Date of commencement of Live Bidding For Sl. No. 1 to 36: 25.05.2026, 11.00 a.m. IST
Last date for bid closing: 26.05.2026 up to 5.00 p.m. (Delta time 5.00 minutes)

Date of commencement of Live Bidding For Sl. No. 37 to 75: 26.05.2026, 11.00 a.m. IST
Last date for bid closing: 27.05.2026 up to 5.00 p.m. (Delta time 5.00 minutes)

Sl. No.	Site No.	Dimensions in Metres: East to West	Dimensions in Metres: North to South	Area in Sq. Mtr.
Anjanapura Township, 1st Block, Anjanapura				
1	470	12	18	216
2	512	9	6	54
3	545	12	9	108
4	551/A	9	6	54
5	553	12	9	108
6	563	9	6	54
7	564	9	6	54
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 64000/-, Contact : 8310525317				
Anjanapura Township, 6th Block, Anjanapura				
8	404	(7.00+9.00)/2	12	96
9	471	12	(5.50+7.00)/2	75
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 71000/-, Contact : 8310525317				
Arkavathy Layout, 2nd Block, Sampigehalli				
10	1808	10.5	18	189
11	1789	(13.00+12.40)/2	12	152.4
12	2142A	9	(32.30+7.40)/2	377.15
13	2178A	24	0.50x30.10	361.2
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 87500/-, Contact : 8494933686				
Arkavathy Layout, 2nd Block, Venkateshpura				
14	1729A	(12.70+16.15)/2	(12.00+14.00)/2	187.46
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 75000/-, Contact : 8217795990				
Arkavathy Layout, 20th Block, Hennur				
15	315	(3.70+3.20)/2	18	62.1
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 73500/-, Contact : 8722433608				
Arkavathy Layout, 7th Block, Jakkur				
16	2136	24	(7.8+6.1)/2	166.8
17	41	(5.50+2.00)/2	18	67.5
18	3132E	23.4	3.4	79.56
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 73500/-, Contact : 8217795990				
Arkavathy Layout, 19th Block, Chellakere				
19	669	(13.0+12.0)/2	(12.20+12.00)/2	151.25
20	641	(8.50+10.60)/2	(11.50+12.00)/2	112.21
21	735	0.5x15.00	12	90
22	53	9	(6.20+10.20)/2	73.8
23	853	9	6	54
24	852	9	6	54
25	1323	(7.40+9.50)/2	9.2	77.74
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 87250/-, Contact : 8217795990				
Banashankari 6th Stage, 5th Block, Hemmigepura				
26	1175	9	(6.00+7.40)/2	60.3
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 72000/-, Contact : 9880946840				
Banashankari 6th Stage, 10th Block, Hemmigepura				
27	831	18	(12.00+13.50)/2	229
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 62300/-, Contact : 9880946840				
Banashankari 6th Stage, 11th Block, Ganakallu				
28	61/F	(13.00+5.50)/2	9	83.25
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 9591964603				
Further Extension of Anjanapura Layout, 10th Block, Gollahalli				
29	1379/D	9	6	54
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 8310525317				
30	1379/E	9	6	54
31	1380/A	9	6	54
32	1349	9	6	54
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 71000/-, Contact : 8310525317				
Further Extension of Anjanapura Layout, 10th Block, Kembathalli				
33	1371	9	6	54
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 1,00,000/-, Contact : 8310525317				
Further Extension of Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th 'T' Block, Thalaghattapura				
34	1970	12	22	264
35	490/L	18	12	216
36	373	12	18	216
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 69300/-, Contact : 9591964603				
Further Extension of Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 7th Block, Gidadakonenahalli				
37	1452	(10.90+4.50)/2	(9.50+9.00)/2	70.84
38	1165	12	(8.10+8.40)/2	99
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 87500/-, Contact : 6362956998				
J.P. Nagar 9th Phase, 3rd Block, Alahalli				
39	384	12.19	18.28	222.83
40	403	12.19	18.28	222.83
41	404	12.19	18.28	222.83
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 1,00,000/-, Contact : 9591964603				
Kumaraswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Govinayakanahalli				
42	213	7.4	6.2	45.88
43	261	7.5	5	37.5
44	253	7.5	5	37.5
45	252	6	7.5	45
46	2383	18	(12.00+0.50)/2	112.5
47	3822	(6.00+7.00)/2	(12.00+0.50)/2	112.5
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 1,27,500/-, Contact : 9591964603				
RMV, Geddalahalli				
48	63	(24.50+7.30)/2	18.7	297.33
49	48/A	12	5	60
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 1,90,000/-, Contact : 8722433608				
Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 6th Block, Ullalu				
50	756	24	15	360
51	1448	24	6.9	165.6
52	2609	(13.1+18.80)/2	18	187.1
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 7975861995				
Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 4th Block, Ullalu				
53	43	(12.10+17.80)/2	18	169.1
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 7975861995				
Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 5th Block, Ullalu				
54	1772	10	13	130
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 7975861995				
Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 3rd Block, Sonnenahalli				
55	2596	11.1	12	133.2
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 6362956998				
Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 1st Block, Kengeri				
56	36	12	(18.00+14.10)/2	192.6
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 9620459111				
Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 1st Block, Ramasandra				
57	2094	(11.30+10.90)/2	18	199.8
58	1446	18	11.1	199.8
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 7349388238				
Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 2nd Block, Ramasandra				
59	167	12	18	216
60	664	18.8	18	338.4
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 7349388238				
Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 4th Block, Ramasandra				
61	1484	18	10.6	190.8
62	1465	24	16.5	396
63	2915	12	11.6	139.2
64	1474	18	8.2	147.6
65	2937	18	20.1	361.8
66	1398	12..0	6.5	78
67	1793/1	15.5	24	372
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 7349388238				
Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 6th Block, Manganahalli				
68	2227	10.4	18	187.2
69	2221	10.1	18	181.85
70	2060	18	11.2	201.6
71	2059	12	11.8	141.6
72	1914	12	4.8	57.6
73	2564	12	(13.00+11.00)/2	144
74	2730/A	18	12.4	223.2
75	2731/A	12	(6.80+4.50)/2	67.8
Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 7975861995				

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR e-AUCTION

(1) The auction purchaser should be a Citizen of India.

(2) Address proof: Any one of the following documents attested by a Gazetted Officer / Notary / Embassy Office (in the case of NRIs) shall be uploaded:- a) Voter ID, b) Driving License, c) Passport, d) Unique ID number (Aadhaar).

(3) Uploading of PAN Card in e-auction portal is compulsory (Should be attested by Gazetted Officer/Notary/Attested by Embassy Office in case of N.R.I.).

(4) Signature & Photo Identity should be uploaded on the e-Auction portal [Attested by a Gazetted Officer / Notary / Embassy Office (in the case of NRIs)]. Please download the prescribed format.

(5) The auction purchaser shall mention correct e-Mail address, mobile number and landline number while participating in the e-Auction. The bidder whose name is registered in the e-procurement is final and the site will not be transferred to any other name.

(6) **Minors / persons without computer knowledge are eligible to participate in the auction through their guardians or friends. While doing so, the name and related documents of only the person purchasing the property must be submitted / uploaded on the e-Auction portal while participating in the e-Auction.**

(7) Partnership firm may participate in the auction. However, the partnership firm should have been registered in India before participating in the auction.

(8) EMD amount is fixed at Rs.4.00 lakhs (Rupees Four Lakhs only) per site and this amount along with the e-Auction fee should be remitted as mentioned on the e-Procurement portal. 5% Service charge on EMD shall be deducted during refund if remitted to BDA's account instead of e-Auction Portal.

(9) All legal proceedings in respect of the auction sites are subject to the jurisdiction of Courts in Bengaluru only.

(10) Five minutes of delta time shall be extended to the last moment bids in the e-Auction.

(11) BDA reserves the right to withdraw the sites notified for auction at any time during auction period without assigning any reasons.

(12) BDA reserves the right to accept or reject the bid made by the successful bidder without assigning any reasons.

(13) **Bank Name:- Canara Bank, BDA Complex Branch, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560020. Savings Account Name:- Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru. Savings Account Number:- 2828101053014 IFSC Code No.:- CNRB0002828 Mode of Payment:- RTGS / NEFT.**

(14) Advice letters will be sent by e-Mail to successful bidders (highest bidders) to remit 25% of the total cost after deducting EMD amount of Rs.4.00 lakhs to the above-mentioned BDA's Bank Account, and the challan for remittance should be submitte to the Accounts Officer, Finance Department ('D' Block, 2nd Floor, Room No.308). In case of failure to remit 25% within stipulated time, as mentioned in the e-auction advised letter, EMD shall be forfeited. Successful bidders after remitting 25% of the final bid amount should pay the balance 75% amount within 45 days of receiving the allotment letter from BDA.

(15) EMD amount of Rs. 4.00 Lakhs of unsuccessful bidders will be credited to their Account interest free, within reasonable time.

(16) The auction purchasers who desire to have the sites jointly registered should upload the details of the persons concerned on the e-Portal. Only blood relations, viz., spouse, sons or unmarried daughters are eligible for joint registration along with the auction purchaser. The relationship of such person should be clearly mentioned and any Government ID proof must be attached along with the application. Later such requests shall be rejected.

(17) During bidding, if there are any duplication of Nick names for the same site, such bid will be rejected without assigning any reasons.

(18) **Where 25% of the total cost is not remitted within 72 hours of receiving e-Auction Advice letter by the successful bidders (highest bidders) or where 25% of the total cost is remitted after the prescribed time, the EMD amount of Rs.4.00 lakh shall be forfeited by the Authority.**

(19) As per IT Act, 1961 Sec.194 IA, where the sale consideration exceeds Rs. 50.00 lakhs, the auction purchaser should deduct 1% of the total amount payable and remit the same to the IT Department.

(20) In case there is a difference in the dimension of the site (Less / More), the full amount (less TDS) as per the dimensions in the e-Auction notification / letter of confirmation of auction site has to be remitted within the prescribed time. If the remittance is not made within the prescribed time, action will be taken as per the Disposal of Corner, Intermediate & Commercial Sites Rules, 1984 of BDA. In case there is a difference in actual dimensions of the site (less / more), the excess amount, if any, remitted by the auction purchaser due to lower dimensions shall be refunded by BDA without interest. Similarly, any incremental amount due to higher dimension of the site shall be remitted by the auction purchaser as advised by BDA. Bidder should pay the full amount and then go for correction in dimensions, if any.

(21) Bidder / auction purchaser shall abide by the Disposal of Corner, Intermediate & Commercial Sites Rules, 1984 of BDA (Document is attached as part of the e-Auction documents).

(22) For demonstration of live bidding & learning the process of bidding, visit BDA Head Office during office hours. Bidding by BDA on behalf of a bidder shall not be undertaken during the demonstration.

(23) While participating in the e-auction, the bid amount should exceed the base price by 10% i.e., site measuring 108 m^2 has base price @ Rs.45,000/m^2. Bidders should quote more than Rs.45,000x1.1=Rs.49,500/m^2 (Rs.49,500 if quoted will be rejected). However, BDA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reasons.

(24) There should be minimum of 2 bidders for each site. Single bidder will be rejected.

(25) Website address: **https://bdakarnataka.in**

(26) E-auction bidders can download the New e-Auction bidding user manual by logging on to the website **https://bdakarnataka.in** For more information contact Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **080-46010000 & 080-68948777.**

(27) The auctioned Sites will be allotted to the successful bidders in the same condition as they are. Bidders participating in the e-auction must physically check the location of the site, Road width etc., before bidding. Sites allotted in the e-auction will not be cancelled / substituted.

(28) Bidders participating in E-Auction are meant to adhere to all the terms and conditions specified above.

(29) Regarding the e-Auction, Bidders should contact the Authority directly and should not contact any middle men.

(30) Geo tag of the sites are for reference only. No Claim is entertained if there are any discrepancies in it.

BIDDERS HAVE TO READ ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BEFORE BIDDING AND SHALL PARTICIPATE ACCORDINGLY.

For location of sites and other details, log on to https://bdakarnataka.in

BDA Commericial site related Queries 080-23368435 / 23368036 and KPPP technical issues contact 080-46010000 / 68948777

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Contact Commissioner, BDA at 9663369000 (Whatsapp only) in case of Non-cooperation from the above mentioned officials

Bangalore Development Authority
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020.

No. BDA/EM/e-Auction/T-03/2026-27 Date: 02.05.2026

Sd/- Engineer Member

Shehnai artiste dies of heart attack while performing

HUBBALLI, DHNS: A shehnai artiste died of heart attack while performing at a wedding ceremony at Rajiv Nagar in Vidya Nagar police station limits in the city on Saturday.

Ramanna Bhajantri (60), a native of Ramanabail in Sirsi taluk of Uttara Kannada district, collapsed while playing shehnai. He died en route to KMC-RI hospital, the police said.

Meanwhile, a 48-year-old man from Jagalur town in Davangere district died of heat stroke in Adoni, Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as I M Fayaz Ahmed. He had travelled to Adoni to paritipcate in a uroos. He took severely ill while travelling by a bus and was hospitalized. But he did not respond to treatment and died, family members said.

3 APMCs win long legal battle, secure 450 acres for mega markets

Rs 410 cr relief paid from APMC's internal revenue: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

Three Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMCs), including two from Bengaluru (Yeshwantpur and Sarjapur) and one from Koppal district (Gangavathi), have secured over 450 acres of land following the resolution of prolonged legal disputes.

Agriculture Marketing Minister Shivanand Patil announced on Saturday that the APMC has successfully paid Rs 410 crore in compensation entirely from its own internal revenue to take possession of the land. The move is expected to clear the decks for projects, including a Mega Market in Bengaluru, and a Rice Technology Park in Koppal.

In a move to ease Bengaluru's traffic woes, the state cabinet has approved the lease of 12 acres of BMTC land adjacent to the Dasanapura APMC.

Minister Patil stated that trade operations for onion, garlic, potato, and ginger will be shifted from the congested Yeshwantpur market to Dasanapura.

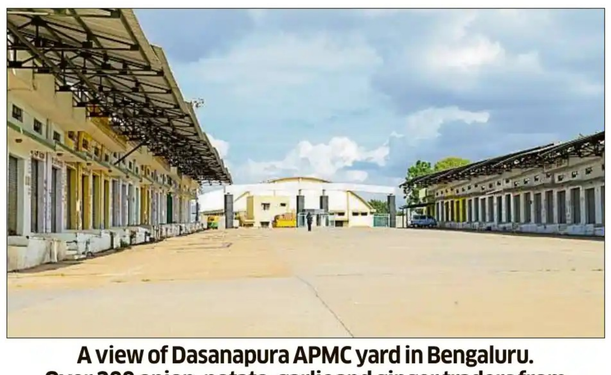
"Hundreds of trucks arriving from north Karnataka with these commodities cause massive traffic snarls at Yeshwantpur. Moving these four specific trades to Dasanapura will provide significant relief to the city's commuters," the minister added.

"The resolution of these cases removes the final hurdles for our flagship projects. We are now set to develop the Mega Market at Srigandhadakavalu, the specialized perishables market at Goolimangala and the rice technology park at Karatagi."

Srigandhadakavalu and Herohalli (272 acres): Acquired in 1994 for a Mega Market project, the acquisition was challenged by the Jamnalal Bajaj Seva Trust. After a favourable ruling from the Supreme Court last week, the Yeshwantpur APMC paid Rs 186 crore in compensation.

Goolimangala (42 acres): Located in Sarjapur hobli which comes under Sarjapur APMC, this land was earmarked in 2003 for a dedicated fruit, flower and vegetable market.

Following a High Court verdict, Rs 211.37 crore has been deposited with the court.



A view of Dasanapura APMC yard in Bengaluru. Over 200 onion, potato, garlic and ginger traders from Yeshwantpur APMC yard will soon be shifted to Dasanapura yard to ease congestion. DH PHOTO

Karatagi (136 acres): Acquired in 2012 for a Rice Technology Park in Koppal district. The Gangavathi APMC successfully contested a lower court's compensation order in the High Court, resolving the matter with a Rs 12 crore payment.

LeT operative gets 7-yr RI

BENGALURU, DHNS: A special court that deals with cases involving the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has convicted and sentenced a man in the prison radicalisation case linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist organisation. The court ordered seven years' rigorous imprisonment to Vikram alias Chota Usman (accused 9 in the case).

The prosecution argued that Vikram had come into contact with the other accused Junaid Ahmed through Usman Shariff in a murder case in 2017. He was radicalised, converted to Islam and recruited to the terror module by Tadiyandavida Naseer alias T Naseer, the prime accused in the case, at the Central Prison in Bengaluru. After his release from the prison, Vikram was in regular contact with T Naseer and other co-accused on encrypted communication platforms. He was handed funds by another co-accused Junaid Ahmed and in May 2023, as instructed by Junaid, Vikram visited Ambala in Haryana and collected a dead drop parcel, containing hand grenades and walkie-talkies and brought it to Bengaluru. He had stayed in the house of Syed Suhail Khan (accused number 3) and handed over the hand grenades and walkie-talkies to Abdul Basheer, father of Junaid Ahmed and Zahid Tabrez. The hand grenades were meant to be used as part of the larger conspiracy to release T Naseer enroute to the court and for further activities of LeT.

On April 21, the special court sentenced T Naseer, Syed Suhail Khan, Mohammed Umar, Zahid Tabrez, Syed Mudassir Pasha alias Mudassir, Mohammed Faisal Rabbani and Salman Khan to 7-year RI in this case. T Naseer, a life convict in the LeT recruitment case and an under-trial prisoner in Bengaluru serial blasts case, used to select gullible under-trial prisoners and would get them transferred to his barracks in the prison. He would radicalize, convert, and recruit them for terror activities of the LeT.

Scribble wins Karnataka's rate card design contest

BENGALURU, DHNS: Scribble bagged the top prize at the 'Rate Card Design Competition 2026' organised by the Government of Karnataka, with D-COE and Grama Panchayat teams securing second and third place respectively. The initiative is aimed at improving transparency in public service delivery.

The competition sought to redesign how service charges are displayed at GramaOne, BangaloreOne and Karnataka One centres, which together deliver over 800 government-to-citizen services through the Seva Sindhu platform across more than 8,000 centres in 31 districts.

Officials pointed out that many existing rate cards are faded, poorly displayed or overly text-heavy, making it difficult for citizens to understand service costs. This often increases dependence on private operators and raises concerns over overcharging. Participants were therefore tasked with creating designs that are visually clear, intuitive and easily scalable across centres statewide.

The final presentations were held at the BWSSB BuildingOne Centre in Malleshwaram, where nine shortlisted teams from institutions including RV and PES universities presented their prototypes before a jury comprising government officials, urban planners and design experts.

Forum opposes SIR, demands decentralised verification

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

An anti-SIR (Special Intensive Revision of voter list) coalition of people's organisations and political parties (except BJP and JD-S) has demanded publication of the 2025 electoral rolls at the gram panchayat level, followed by mandatory grama sabhas to review, identify and correct voter deletions.

Amid the ongoing voter mapping by the Election Commission, a precursor to SIR, a consultation meeting of the coalition – SIR Virodhi Karnataka, resolved to meet Rural Development Minister Priyank Kharge to push for decentralised verification of voter lists. The forum also decided to constitute a legal team to move a fresh petition in the Supreme Court seeking a stay on SIR. The coalition decided to meet the CM and Deputy Chief Minister, seeking an all-party and all-organisations meeting to demand stalling of SIR in the state, till the Election Commission reviews the process held across 13 states till now.

Citing the alleged disruptions caused in West Bengal, where 35 lakh people could not vote as their appeals were not even examined, the coalition said it demonstrates that SIR is a flawed and mala fide exercise. So far, SIR has excluded 6.5 crore eligible voters from the electoral rolls. The process is yet to be conducted in 17 more states and five Union Territories, it noted.

Noor Sridhar, president of Eddelu Karnataka, a constituent of the coalition, said, "A majority of those deleted from voter lists are married women, migrant workers, nomadic communities, Adivasis, Dalits, and minorities. SIR has completely failed in its stated objective of identifying and removing non-citizens from voter rolls and instead subjected all 97 crore voters in the country to unnecessary hardship, while depriving crores of eligible voters, particularly from vulnerable communities, of their right to vote."

A core committee and a common workroom in Bengaluru to anchor daily operations, voter outreach and follow-ups, and a helpline to assist affected voters, are on cards. The activists also demanded increasing the SIR period from three to six months, an increase in the appeal window too and also prompt issuing of residence and identity certificates by the state government to voters to prevent their exclusion.

KAS selection row: B'luru court acquits ex-KPSC chief, 5 others

BENGALURU, DHNS: An Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) court has acquitted H N Krishna, former chairman of Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), and five others in the case of alleged irregularities in the process of selection of 1998 batch Gazetted Probationary posts.

The others acquitted in the case are; Asha Parveen and Salma Firdosh, two candidates (named as accused numbers 2 and 3, respectively) and K Narasimha, P Gopala Krishna and M B Banakar, three KPSC staff (named as accused numbers 5, 6 and 7, respectively).

1st Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru, K P Manjunatha noted that the prosecution has miserably failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubts and hence the accused are acquitted on benefit of doubt. The court further pointed out that though the prosecution examined several witnesses, all those witnesses and documents in the chargesheet material could only show to the court that Krishna was chairman of the KPSC at the time of the 1998 Gazetted Probationary Batch and two other accused were KPSC employees and were working under the direction of Krishna.

The court noted that the very aggrieved candidates, who were not selected for the posts, had not supported the prosecution case and they deposed evidence against their own statements given to the police and the magistrate under CrPC Section 164.

The court further observed that there were some lacuna and irregularities and grave administrative lapse in the process of 1998 Gazetted Probationary batch. However, such administrative lapses shall not be given nor treated as criminal acts against the accused in this case, the court said.

The prosecution case was that the accused KPSC chairman and three KPSC members did not select H G Prabhakar, T S Hanumanthegowda and Allabhksha and selected Asha Parveen and Salma Firdosh on faulty caste certificates and other documents. The prosecution submitted 41 witnesses and 71 documents while the defence exhibited 81 documents in the case.

FOUR IS FAMILY

A tigress with her three cubs is seen in the Lokkanahalli safari area of Male Mahadeshwara wildlife sanctuary of Hanur taluk in Chamarajanagar district. DH PHOTO

Govt sets rule to streamline litigation

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has set clear deadlines for officials at various levels to bring coordination and accountability in the conduct of government litigation.

In a notification dated April 21, 2026, principal secretary to government, Law, Justice and Human Rights referred to the directions made by Kalaburagi bench of the Karnataka High Court to bring reforms.

The government will develop a dedicated digital case tracking module. All the departments have to upload case details within 48 hours upon the receipt of any court order or notice. Accordingly, the advocate general's (AG) office will have five days to get copies from the section concerned and send to the department/s party to the case. The notification then provides time for each officer, from receipt section to under secretary and others, including the second round of file movement between the AG office to government and others.

Failure to comply will attract a show-cause notice. Errant officials may face adverse entry in service record, disciplinary proceedings and, in the case of advocates, removal.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
K. Kamaraj Road, Bangalore - 42. Tel: 080 - 25581238
E Mail: apsbangalore@gmail.com

TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR CIVIL AND OTHER WORKS AT ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, BANGALORE

TENDER NO	DESCRIPTION OF WORK
APS/356/2026-27	**Flooring Work:** Removal of existing stone flooring from 6 Classrooms of Bldg P3 and laying of Sadarahalli Granite of 18mm Thickness with the help of m-sand and cement. Approx Area = 3100 Sqft
APS/357/2026-27	**Flooring Work:** Removal of Existing Kadapa Stone from 3 Staff rooms of Bldg P3 and laying of Sadarahalli Granite of 18mm Thickness with the help of m-sand and Cement. Approx Area = 1600 Sqft
APS/358/2026-27	**Civil Work:-** Closing the Gaps between 3 Class Rooms with Weight less Blocks/Red Brick and Plastering both the side and distempering the newly constructed wall. Approx Area = 720 Sqft per class room. Total 2160 sqft
APS/359/2026-27	**Civil Work:-** Closing of Wall in 4 rooms with Weightless Blocks and plastering both side and Distempering the newly constructed wall. Approx Area = 192 Sqft per class room. Total : 768 sqft
APS/360/2026-27	Construction of Platform in 5 Classrooms of size = 10'L X 5'W = 50 sqft x 5 = 250 Sqft
APS/361/2026-27	Installation of 6 Aluminium Door of Size = 3'W x 7'H
APS/362/2026-27	Installation of 6 Aluminium Sliding Window of two tracker size = 4'W x 4'L
APS/363/2026-27	Supply and Installation of ceiling fans and LED tube light in 3 Classrooms
APS/364/2026-27	Installation of CCTV Cameras in Bldg P3 classrooms
APS/365/2026-27	Installation of CCTV Cameras in Main Bldg & Primary Wing

Separate quotations are invited from Reputed Companies for civil works/electrical works/carpentry works/CCTV. For details & specifications visit school website **www.apsbangalore.edu.in.** and inspection visit the school between 0900h – 1300h on working days. Submit sealed quotations for each in a separate envelope for the above works and super scribed on the envelope **"ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, KKR TENDER No._____FOR Technical Bid_____" and "ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, KKR TENDER No. _____for Commercial Bid._____"..** Individual quotations for each work mentioned above will only be accepted. COMBINED BIDS WILL BE REJECTED. **Tender should be in two sealed envelopes- one for Commercial bid and second for Technical Bid.** Quotations to be dropped directly in the box kept at The Presiding Offr, 56 Coy ASC (Sup) Type G, Cubbon Road, Bangalore-560 001. Quotations to reach on or before **09 MAY 2026 at 1100 hrs.**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

APPLICATION NOTIFICATION NO. B/C.210/Halt/2026-27/SBC Division, Date: 27.04.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for appointment of Halt Agent from educated unemployed persons residing in and around the Kempegowda International Airport (KIAD), Someshwar (SMWA) and Jannagatta (GJT) Train Halt station for issuing Unreserved tickets on Commission Basis for a period of five (05) years or up-gradation of the station whichever is earlier.

Sl.No.	Halt Station	Section	To Start functioning from
1.	Kempegowda International Airport (KIAD)	YNK	Date will be notified by the Administration.
2.	Someshwara (SMWA)		
3.	Jannagatta (GJT)		

Last date for Submission of Application : **Upto 10.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs on 03.06.2026**

For details log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/82/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No.10/SBC/26 OF 23.04.2026 through E-tendering

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Sl. No	Description of work	Approx.Value
1	Divsional Engineer/South/Bengaluru: Chikkabanavara -Hassan section: Balance work for extension of High-level platform at Nelamangala(NMGA) station Platform-1 by 140 mtr, Kunigal(KIGL) station Platform-1,2 and 3 by 20 meter, Yediyuru (YY) station platform 1,2 and 3 by 40 meters in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kunigal subdivision. Sub Way II: Divsional Engineer/South/Bengaluru: Chikkabanavara-Hassan section: Balance work for extension of platform at BG Nagar (BGNR) station platform-1, 2 by 16 meters, Hirisave (HISE) platform 1,2 and 3 by 20 meters, Shravanabelagola (SBGA) station Platform 1,2 and 3 by 138 meters, Channarayapatna (CNPA) Platform 1,2 and 3 by 140 mtr and compound wall at channarayapatna station in ADEN/Kunigal sub-division. Maintenance period is 12 months	Rs. 2,51,99,792/-
2	Divsional Engineer/South/Bengaluru sec: **Sub Way I** : Proposed trackmen rest room at Soldevanahalli (SDVL), Solur (SOLR), Thippasandra (TASA), Yediyur (YY), B G Nagar (BGNR), Hirisave (HISE) and Shantigrama (SIGA) stations under ADEN/Kunigal sub- division with electrical portions. **Sub Way II** : Anekal Proposed construction of CC Road for improved access to TM rest room and service buildings. Maintenance period is 3 years (Composite tender)	Rs. 1,88,46,526
3	Omalur - Yesvanthpur sec: Proposed provision of standard height gauges for 13 RUB Nos - 31/A, 31/B, 32/A, 35/A, 42/A, 45/A, 81/A, 82/B, 178/A, 243/A, 427/A, 541 and 580/A between Omalur-Bengaluru stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Dharmapuri sub- division. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 2,20,78,074
4	Chikabanavara - Hassan section: Proposed improvements to 20 RUB No. 14, 73, 95, 96, 106, 168, 178, 177, 196, 204, 205, 221, 236, 281, 312, 323, 351, 356, 374 and 382 between Hassan - Nelamangala stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kunigal sub-division. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 1,48,12,351
5	Bengaluru Dharmavaram sec: Proposal for drainage arrangements for RUB Br. No. 162/A at km 154/200-300 between Makajjpalli (MKJ) - Nagasamudram (NGM) stations and for RUB Br. No. PD-133/A at km 47/200-300 between Basampalle (BSPL) - Dharmavaram (DMM) stations in Penukondi-Sathya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam railway station-Dharmavaram section. Maintenance period is 6 months	Rs. 2,35,35,240
6	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mandya sub-division: Proposed construction of 16nos of Goomties Building at specified locations including electrical portion in Bengaluru Yeliyuru section. Maintenance period is 3 years. Composite Tender.	Rs. 4,00,73,852
7	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mandya sub-division: Proposed construction of S and T Accommodation Buildings (4Nos) including electrical portion at Nayandahalli (NYH), Hejjala (HJL), Channapatna (CPT) and Bidadi (BID) stations. Maintenance period is 3 years. Composite Tender	Rs. 2,72,43,579
8	Bangalore -Jolarpettai section: Replacement of steel girders with PSC slab of Br. No. 758 at km 285/400-500 (Ex. Span 1 x 7.10m+2x9.15m+1x10.35m DN) in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bangarpet Sub-division. Maintenance period is 4 years.	Rs. 1,45,44,543
9	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bangarpet Sub-Division: Proposed reconstruction of Type-II quarters - 12 units and Type-III quarters - 4 units including electrical portions at Bangarpet (BWT) station. Maintenance period is 3 years. Composite Tender.	Rs. 4,00,12,222

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 18.05.2026**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination/ Bengaluru

PUB/83/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. DEE/ TRD, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following work **before 15.00 hrs.** on the date mentioned against item and will be opened **at 15.30 hrs. Tender Notice No.: TRD-KGP-W-2026-27-04, Dated: 29.04.2026. Description of work:** Replacement of over-aged /Rusted /Damaged TRD assets under Kharagpur Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,96,01,488.10. **EMD:** ₹ 11,92,000. **Cost of tender document:** Nil. **Date of opening:** 22.05.2026. **Completion Period:** 18 (Eighteen) months. **Date of submission:** Upto 15.00 hrs. of 22.05.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details, description, specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this work will be accepted. **Note:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-109)**

BEFORE THE HON'BLE SENIOR CIVIL-JUDGE COURT AT HARIHAR (DAVANAGERE DISTRICT KARNATAKA STATE)

Original suit No-206/2025

Plaintiff: Kumari Komal.S D/o Santhosh S.B, Aged about 14 years, student plaintiff is minor represented by her national mother, Smt Yashodha bai, D/o Krishnoji Rao, R/o Arasikere Town, Now at Soudi Arebiya-Riyad at Habeeb Medical center-authoritharised G.P.A holder Smt Vanajakshi bai W/o Krishnoji Rao aged about 65 years, house work, R/o Near Adichunchanagiri Institute Arasikere town Hassan Dist.

V/s

Defendants:- 1. Sri Santhosh S.B, 2. Sri Jagadish S.B, 3. Smt Sujatha

SUIT SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO-1 TO 3 BY SUBSTITUTE SERVICE THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 OF C.P.C

TO Defendant No-1 Sri Santhosh S.B, S/o Basavanthappa, Aged about 47 years, Business person. Defendant No-2. Sri Jagadeesh S.B, S/o Basavanthappa, Aged about 51 years, pvt employee, Both are R/o Plot No-11, 1st main road, Vikas Nagara, Mathigiri HCF post Hosur, Tq Krishnagiri, T.N state. Defendant No- 3. Smt Sujatha S.B, D/o Basavanthappa, W/o Shankar .S, aged about 47 years, R/o No-24, Janani building, 2nd cross A cross, Muthyala Nagara, MSRIT post, Bangalore.

WHERE As, The plaintiff has instituted a suit against to defendant No-1 to 3 for partition and separate possession of her share in ancestral joint family properties. You defendant No-1 to 3 are here by required to appear before above said court on 01-06-2026 at 11:00 AM in the fore noon in person or by a pleader/ advocate duly instructed to answer all relevant questions as to why the relief prayed by plaintiff for should not be granted/to be grant. Take the Summons incase failed to appear on fixed date and time on mentioned court matter will be heard and decide by passing exparte order. Given under my hand the seal of this Hon'ble court on this day of 24-03-2026.

By Order Of this Court: Shirastedar senior civil court, Harihar.

Advocate for plaintiff:Mohan Rao M.H, G.K Naika.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER Notice No. ERS-SG-CN-2026-OT-03
E-TENDER Notice No. ERS-SG-CN-2026-OT-04

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy.Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Ernakulam, II Floor, Eastern Entry, Ernakulam Junction, Karshaka Road, Kochi - 682 012 invites e-tenders for the following work:

Item No.	Name of the work
1.	Provision of Indoor and outdoor Signalling & Telecommunication arrangements at Thiruvananthapuram Central station, Signalling and interlocking arrangements at LC gates and Indoor and outdoor Signalling & Telecommunication alterations at Thiruvananthapuram South station to suit Twin single line between Thiruvananthapuram Central and Thiruvananthapuram South stations in connection with doubling of track between Thiruvananthapuram Central & Kanniyakumari stations. (Double packet system)
2.	Re-routing of S&T cables and shifting of S&T assets in Shoranur Jn.- Vallathol Nagar section to facilitate Engineering works in connection with patch doubling of track between Shoranur Jn. - Vallathol Nagar stations. (Single Packet system)

Approximate Cost of Work (₹)	Bid s Security (₹)	Last Date of e-submission of Tender / Date of Opening of the Tender	Period of Completion (Months)
34,16,00,479.19	68,32,000.00	21/05/2026 / 15.00 hrs	6 (Six) Months
3,35,52,862.24	6,71,100.00	21/05/2026 / 15.00 hrs	6 (Six) Months

Note: 1. Value of tender inclusive of GST as per GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time for the supply and services by the tenderer.
2. Visit **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed terms and conditions and corrigendum if any.

Dy.Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Ernakulam Junction - 682 016

S&T ASSOCIATED WORKS IN ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. : S&T/APDJ/03 & 04, **Dated:** 29-04-2026; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **SN-1. Tender No.** : AP-ST-03-2026-27; **Name of work** : Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Hitachi make Electronic Interlocking at 19 Stations for a period of 03 (Three) years i.e. 36 Months in Alipurduar Division. **Advertised Tender Value:** ₹3,81,33,677.16/-; **Bid Security:** ₹7,62,700/-; **SN-2. Tender No.** : AP-ST-04-2026-27; **Name of work** : Rani Nagar Jalpaiguri-Chautara - Provision of Track Machine siding - 10 Stations (S&T Associated works). **Advertised Tender Value:** ₹59,28,525/-; **Bid Security:** ₹1,18,600/-; Date & time of **closing** of both tenders at **15:00** hrs.on **25-05-2026** and **opening** of tenders on **25-05-2026** after closing. For details please visit in N.F. Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

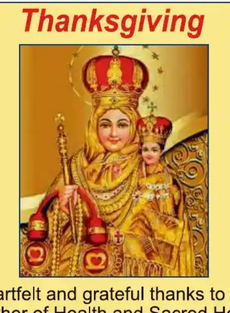
DRM (S&T), Alipurduar Division

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

Thanksgiving

Grateful thanks to Miraculous Infant Jesus and Mama Mary for favors received.
- Sylvia Lewis

Thanksgiving



Heartfelt and grateful thanks to our Mother of Health and Sacred Heart of Jesus for favors received.
- Angelene Lewis

Thanksgiving

Grateful thanks to Divine Mercy for favours received
- Marina Hamilton and family.

Thanksgiving

Thanks giving for the favour and blessings seeking your blessings always
- Vijayalakshmi & Family

Man kills 2 kids, ends life

KUNIGAL (TUMAKURU DISTRICT), DHNS: A man allegedly killed his two children and later ended his life at Alkere village in Hutridurga hobli in the taluk late on Friday night.

His wife has been arrested in this connection. Her paramour is absconding, police said. The deceased have been identified as Shivanna (40), the priest of Malleshwara Swamy temple at the village, his sons Jeevan (10) and Pranesh (5).

It is learnt that Shivanna and his wife Kavya were frequently quarrelling over her alleged affair with Mooganapura Hemanth. Kavya was living with her kids at her parents' house at Kurudihalli in Kottagere hobli. Shivanna had brought the children back to his house on Friday. Neighbours informed the police about the incident. A case has been registered following a complaint by Prakash, Shivanna's relative. SP Ashok and DySP Omprakash inspected the spot.

RTC unions call for indefinite bus strike from May 20

Move follows failure of recent talks with transport minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Trade Unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has called for an indefinite statewide strike starting May 20.

The strike, which is expected to ground buses from KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC starting at 6 am, follows the failure of recent talks between union leaders and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

Deadlock over pay revision

Addressing a press conference on Saturday, Jyothi Ananthasubba Rao, President of the KSRTC Staff and Workers Federation, announced the protest. She stated that the unions had demanded a 25% salary hike effective from January 2024.

"We requested the Minister to implement a pay revision within a fixed time frame. However, the government offered only a 7% increase, to be implemented from April 1, 2025. This is unacceptable to the workforce," Rao said.

Union leaders warned that the state government would be solely responsible for any inconvenience caused to the general public. "We have petitioned the government multiple times to no avail. If the public suffers, the responsibility lies with the administration's apathy, not the employees," the JAC members stated.

The press conference was attended by prominent union leaders, including D A Vijay Bhaskar (General Secretary, KSRTC Staff and Workers Federation), B Jayadevaraje Urs (General Secretary, Akhila Karnataka State Road Transport Employees' Federation), and H D Revappa, among others.

The strike is expected to affect the operations of buses run by transport corporations.

Key demands

- **Wage arrears:** Payment of Rs 1,272 crore in pending arrears covering a 26-month period in a single instalment.
- **Allowance hike:** An immediate increase in daily allowances and other employee benefits.
- **Covid relief:** Disbursement of promised compensation to the families of employees who lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Policy disputes:** Resolution of 'Form-4' and other administrative issues through discussions with the JAC within one-month deadline.

Tourism Minister H K Patil takes a look at archaeological remains on the bed of a tank in Lakkundi village of Gadag taluk on Saturday. Legislative Council chairperson Basavaraj Horatti is seen.

Artefacts collection week launched in Lakkundi

GADAG, DHNS: Tourism Minister H K Patil on Saturday launched a week-long campaign for collecting as many as 2,000 artefacts in the historic Lakkundi village over seven days. The Tourism Department, Department of Archaeology Museums and Heritage and Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority have jointly organised this campaign.

Patil said that more than 1,200 archaeological remains have been identified at 40 locations under the limits of Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority and they have been numbered. "Nowhere such an effort has been made," he said.

The minister said that according to historic records, there were 101 wells and 101 temples in Lakkundi. It has been planned to discover 50 temples and 50 wells by the end of 2026. All the archaeological remains collected in the village will be kept for display in a open museum. Department of Archaeology Museums and Heritage Commissioner A Devaraju said that efforts have been lauched to secure World Heritage Site tag for Lakkundi.

UP AGAINST PRICE HIKE

Youth Congress members stage a protest over the hike in prices of commercial LPG gas cylinders, in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI PHOTO

Rishab Shetty calls on Shah, talks films, history & culture

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Actor-director Rishab Shetty, known for his hit venture 'Kantara', called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah here on Saturday.

In a post on social media platform X, Shah said, "It was truly engaging to speak with you about films and culture. The way you present Indian civilisation and culture through your films, with such understanding and sensitivity, is genuinely admirable and leaves a lasting impact.

"I am confident that you will continue to inspire people through your work in future," Shah said.

Shetty said the meeting marked one of his "most memorable moments".

"Had the honour of meeting the Honourable Home Minister, Shri @AmitShah ji. It became one of my most memorable moments as he shared his words of appreciation for Kantara and Kantara Chapter 1," he posted on X.

Shetty said he had a "wonderful time" discussing his upcoming projects with the home minister.

"I must say, I was truly happy when he began sharing his in-depth knowledge and understanding of our history, culture, art and film-making," the Kantara actor said.

On the professional front, the national award-winning actor is gearing up to portray Lord Hanuman in director Prasanth Varma's upcoming mythological film Jai Hanuman.

The makers recently released a powerful first-look poster featuring Shetty, perfectly capturing the character's divine aura and fierce intensity.

Actor-director Rishab Shetty calls on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Saturday.

Kerala couple drown as boat topples in KRS backwaters

MYSURU, DHNS: A couple from Kerala died after a boat toppled while they were sailing in the KRS backwaters near Giriyarahalli under KRS police station limits in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district on Friday evening.

Manjunath (72) and his wife Jessy (71) from Kochi, Kerala, are the deceased. Even though they were rescued and rushed to Pandavapura Government Hospital, they failed to respond to treatment and succumbed, according to the police.

Manjunath and seven of his family members had come on a trip. Due to heavy winds, the boat toppled, while they were on a ride offered by a private agency. They had worn safety jackets, the police said. The KRS police have registered a case.

DIFFICULTY DIMS DELIGHT Experts call for slimmer books, junking old Kannada for colloquial

Kannada faces SSLC lingua litmus test in own state

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS:

The recently announced SSLC exam-1 results, which had a record pass percentage, have raised concerns over the number of students failing in Kannada language.

As per data from the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB), this year, nearly 19,000 students failed in Kannada language.

This includes 18,678 who had taken Kannada as first language and 289 as third language.

On the other hand, a total of 9,501 students failed in Hindi - 20 in first language and 9,481 in third language.

Among all nine languages offered as first language, the number of students failing in Kannada is the highest.

The pass percentage of those who studied English as first language is 98.38, 98.15 in Hindi, 97.16 in Marathi, 99.99 in Sanskrit, 100 in Tamil and Telugu and 98.44% in Urdu. The figure for Kannada as first language is 96.92.

Accepting the fact that results in first language Kannada is low, officials say it has improved from previous year.

"The number of students failing in first language Kannada was around 90,000 last year. This time, we have seen improvement," said an official of the school education and literacy department.

Stakeholders, including private school management representatives, have now demanded that the maximum marks for first language be reduced from 125 to 100.

"This is one of our long-pending demands. Reducing marks for first language from 125 to 100 will lead to a big difference in results. It will encourage children to study with interest, " said D Shashi Kumar, general secretary of the associated managements of primary and secondary schools in Karnataka.

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said the idea behind shifting from marks to grades for third language subjects was to make it easy for students to learn first language Kannada.

"Our intention was to give importance to learning Kannada, by reducing pressure on children vis-a-vis the third language. Following the court order, we withdrew the decision, but in the interest of Kannada, we will re-introduce it," the minister said.

Experts say there is a need to bring in a system to teach Kannada in a simple manner.

"The Sanskrit textbooks, for example, are not more than 25 pages, whereas those of Kannada are 100 plus pages. There is a need to simplify Kannada textbooks," said Purushotham Bilimale, chairperson of Kannada Development Authority (KDA).

He said the teachers appointed to teach Kannada need to be trained properly and the textbooks must be revised.

"Coordination between experts who frame the textbooks at different levels is very important. There is no need to teach grammar, old Kannada at primary and secondary level. The department must analyse how much Kannada is needed for our schoolchildren and what should be taught at what age, in a simple way," Bilimale said.

Stakeholders, including private school management representatives, have demanded that the maximum marks for first language be reduced from 125 to 100. DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

First language in SSLC '26

Subject	Student number	Pass
Kannada	6,07,275	5,88,597
English	1,23,143	1,21,155
Urdu	21,405	21,072
Sanskrit	7,694	7,693
Marathi	8,630	8,385
Hindi	1,079	1,059
Tamil	287	287
Telugu	126	126

He said the government must take this seriously, to save and protect Kannada.

"What is the need to teach schoolchildren Halegannada (old Kannada)? If they are interested, they will study Kannada literature in higher education. At school level, the focus should be on teaching the language. The toughness level of Kannada textbooks in high school is high. The textbooks have 50& to 60% of Halegannada, which mainly covers literature and grammar. Modern Kannada is restricted to 20% to 30%. Use of colloquial Kannada more in textbooks will help students learn it easily," said Manjunath, Kannada teacher and former president of Karnataka high school assistant masters' association.

The KDA has conducted a study, in which it identified reasons for students failing more in Kannada language. It has submitted recommendations to Minister Madhu Bangarappa, on strengthening the teaching of the language.

According to the study report, the number of students choosing English as first language over Kannada has increased.

In 2016, as much as 10.61% students had taken English as first language. The same increased to 14.62% in 2025.

"Students failing in Kannada in SSLC are not just numbers. It indicates the future threat to Kannada," reads the report.

The report mentions shortage of teachers in schools as one of the reasons for the trend.

Even the number of students scoring 125/125 in first language Kannada is less compared to those scoring 100/100 in third language Hindi.

This year, 31,255 students scored 100/100 in third language Hindi. For, first language Kannada, this number is 10,341.

'Paperless' regn: Document writers' union slams Kaveri 2.0, flags fraud risks

'Digi-lockers, OTP-based authentication complicated for rural people'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka state stamps and registration department authorised licensed document writers' union has flayed the government's transition to a completely paperless digital registration system in Kaveri 2.0 portal.

The union leaders have warned that the move, aimed at modernization, is rife with security loopholes that may facilitate land grabbing and leave illiterate citizens vulnerable to exploitation.

Addressing reporters here on Saturday, D K Sangamesh Eligar, the union president, expressed concerns over the lack of physical documentation provided to property buyers.

"By implementing a paperless system, the government is denying citizens physical proof of their most valuable assets. If records are stored only in a digital locker, what happens to those who lack digital literacy? Without physical titles, many buyers are left with no immediate, tangible security for their property," Eligar said.

Vice president Naveen Kumar N pointed out the practical hurdles that the rural population and the elderly might face.

"A large section of our society, particularly farmers and those in rural areas, do not understand the complexities of digital lockers and OTP-based authentication. This system has been introduced without adequate public awareness or training. It feels less like a paperless system and more like a easy path for hackers and fraudsters to exploit innocent citizens," Kumar said.

Grievances highlighted

- **Financial hurdles:** The lack of original physical documents is making it increasingly difficult for property owners to secure bank loans, as financial institutions still demand physical titles for collateral.
- **Security risks:** The rise in mobile hacking and OTP scams makes the digital-only registration process highly susceptible to cybercrime.
- **Wills and inheritance:** The digital system complicates the process of creating and executing wills, where confidentiality and physical presence are paramount.
- **Bypassing experts:** The union claims the government is attempting to eliminate the role of legal advisors and licensed document writers, leaving the public without expert guidance during complex legal procedures.

Tigala corporation gets new chief

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government appointed Kolar-based L A Manjunath as chairperson of the Karnataka Tigala Community Development Corporation on Saturday. Manjunath is a Congress leader in the party's Kolar unit. He is a retired deputy commissioner of excise. Manjunath met Siddaramaiah and received a copy of the notification appointing him to the post.

G Sathyavathi is new chief info commissioner

Sathyavathi

BENGALURU, DHNS: Retired IAS officer G Sathyavathi was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner at the Karnataka Information Commission on Saturday. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot signed off on this appointment after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah finalised her name.

Sathyavathi was a state civil service officer before she was promoted to the IAS in 2004. Her last assignment was as secretary, department of personnel & administrative reforms (DPAR), reporting to Siddaramaiah.

Fete planned in Tumakuru to celebrate 3 years of Cong govt

TUMAKURU, DHNS: A big bash has been planned in Tumakuru on May 20 to commemorate three years of the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government.

Conferring with government officials in the city on Saturday, Tumakuru district in-charge minister G Parameshwara discussed the arrangements to be made for the big fete. As many as two lakh people from across Karnataka are expected to turn up for the event, which is to be held at the Government Junior College grounds.

As many as 4,000 buses may have to be requisitioned to ferry the participants to the venue in Tumakuru. Other arrangements will also be made for the benefit of the participants.

"The Congress government is set to complete three years in office on May 20. We have decided to hold a big fete in Tumakuru to celebrate this milestone," said Parameshwara.

'Dowry harassment': Woman dies by suicide

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 23-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide by hanging at her residence in Hulimavu. The deceased has been identified as Vandana, wife of Vikram Shesha and the couple were married three years ago and have three month old child.

The police said that the incident took place on Friday night and after finding her body, the husband's family informed her mother over phone. Police said that the family of the victim accused her husband of harassing her over dowry. Based on a complaint, Hulimavu police have registered a case of dowry harassment against her husband, mother-in-law and father-in-law

ಮಹಾರಾಣಿ ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
MAHARANI CLUSTER UNIVERSITY
ಅರಮನೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001. Email:mcublr@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮಕ್ಲವಿ/EXS-09/Ph.D/2026-27 Date:29.04.2026

Ph.D Admission

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for seeking admission into Ph.D programmes for the Academic Session 2026-27. Courses-Kannada, English, Botany, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Computer Science, Commerce and Management, Electronics, Economics, Food & Nutrition, History, Human Development, Resource Management and Interior Design and Decoration. Mathematics, Microbiology, Psychology, Physics, Political Science, Sericulture, Sociology, Zoology.

Candidates are advised to visit the University website https://mcu.karnataka.gov.in/92/ph.d-notification-/enp for details. Only offline applications are entertained

Content	Dates
Opening of Application	02.05.2026
Closing date for Submission of Application	02.06.2026

Sd/- Registrar (Evaluation)
Maharani Cluster University

DIPR/CP/470/CCL/2026-27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018

No.: EE/CRP/KPPP/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 02.05.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPPP Portal only)

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) invites **Request for Proposal** from interested Firms / Organization those **who have done similar type of work** for Preparation of Detailed Project Report, Consultant for Supervision, Project Management and Quality Control for the project for the below works invited through KPPP system by the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, Zone-2, BCCC invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation / KPWD / Electrical / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organization for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Consultancy services for Topographical survey, Cadastral survey, preparation of Land Acquisition plan and Form-1, Form-3 Notification & assisting department for completing TDR process of 1.855 Km for the work of ``Widening of Padarayanapura Main Road from Binny Mill Tank Bund Road to Vijayanagara Pipeline Road''. (Est. Cost. Rs. 4000.00 Lakhs). **PMC Cost (Rs. in Lakhs):** 40.00, **EMD Amount in Rs.:** 1.00 Lakh.

Calender of events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from **05.05.2026. (2)** Date of Pre bid meeting will at the office of the Executive Engineer (Chamarajpet Division) on **12.05.2026** at **11:00 a.m. (3)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **14.05.2026** and the opening of tenders will be as per the KPPP portal guidelines. **(4)** Technical bids will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the office of the Executive Engineer, (Chamarajpet Division) on **15.05.2026** at **5:00 p.m.** or next working day. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, Bengaluru Central City Corporation

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hegganahalli Division, 4th Cross Road, 2nd Main Road, 3rd Block, HMT Layout, Near BWSSB Water Tank, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru-560 073.

No:BWCC/EE/HD/Tend/01/2026-27 Date: 30.04.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender Notification (IFT)
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Hegganahalli Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Category
1.	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon Control Room in Peenya Industrial Area Sub Division (Ward No. 1,2,3,4 & 6). **Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 10.58, EMD in ₹: 26,454 (Others).**
2.	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon Control Room in Hegganahalli Sub Division (Ward No. 5,7,8,9 & 10). **Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 10.58, EMD in ₹: 26,454 (Others).**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded through KPP Portal from : **02.05.2026 4:00 p.m. onwards (2)** Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **14.05.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (3)** Tender Bids will be opened on : **15.05.2026 at 4:30 p.m.** (if possible).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hegganahalli Division, Zone-1, BWCC.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836-2741277, 0836-2748374,
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836-2741277,
Email Id : dsdharwad@gmail.com

ಕ್ರ: ಜಿಆಧಾ/ಎ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್/03/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02-05-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ : 2026-2027 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಕುರಿತು.

2026-2027 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಮತ್ತು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999-2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದ್ವಿ-ಬಿಡ್ **(Technical and Financial)** ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ (ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22-04-2026 ರಿಂದ 06-05-2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** 2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08-05-2026 ರಂದು 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** 3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-05-2026 ರಂದು 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.**

ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ದಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯುಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ./ಧಾರವಾಡ/110/2026-27/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08382-220556 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: predkarwar@gmail.com
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಪಂರಾ.ಇಂ/ಕಾ/ಪಿಬಿ-1/2026-27/06 ದಿ: 30.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ-06/2026-27 (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಟೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ **2245-08-101-0-01-059** ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಪತ್ತು ಉಪಶಮನ ನಿಧಿ **(NDRF)** ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯ ವಿಪತ್ತು ಉಪಶಮನ ನಿಧಿ **(SDRF)** ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ **Standard Tender Document** ನ **K.W-4** ರ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ವಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: (ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ) (1) **2245-08-101-0-01-059** ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಪತ್ತು ಉಪಶಮನ ನಿಧಿ **(NDRF)** ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯ ವಿಪತ್ತು ಉಪಶಮನ ನಿಧಿ **(SDRF)** ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮಾವಿನಕುರ್ವಾ ಪಂ ಹೊಸಾಡ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಗುಡ್ಡ ತೆರವು ಮಾಡುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟ್ ತಡೆಗೋಡೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. **RDPR/2025-26/FP/ WORK_INDENT25536,** ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **378.00** ಲಕ್ಷ, ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ ರೂ. **4,75,000.00,** ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ): **09** ತಿಂಗಳು

(1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್-ಬಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು **Technical Bid** ನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತುಂಬಿ ಮರಳಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **18.05.2026** ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ **16.30** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. (2) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ **Technical Bid** ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19.05.2026** ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ **16.31** ಘಂಟೆಗೆ. (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/98/26-27 dt. 30.04.2026

ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಘಟಕ-3, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ತಾ: ಹುಣಸಗಿ
Office of the EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-3 Narayanpur-585219

KBJNL/DSU-3/PB/AWP/2026-27/120 Dated:-02.05.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ/ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಘಟಕ-3, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಅಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ. **76** ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21.04.2026** ಈ ವಿಭಾಗದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ **Two E-Document System** ನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, **Qualification criteria** ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ: 02.05.2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿ: 20.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2.	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ: 20.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
3.	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಘಟಕ-3, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)	ದಿ: 22.05.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
4.	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಘಟಕ-3, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)	ದಿ: 25.05.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಘಟಕ-3, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- **ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,**
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಘಟಕ-3,
ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ.

Actor Chetan files plaint against Sa Ra Govindu over alleged threats

Chetan Ahimsa

BENGALURU, DHNS: Actor and activist Chetan Kumar Ahimsa on Saturday filed a police complaint against film producer Sa Ra Govindu, alleging that he used abusive language and issued threats.

According to complainant, the incident occurred last Saturday when Govindu, along with others, allegedly came to Chetan's residence, confronted him and behaved aggressively.

Chetan claimed that Govindu used derogatory words and threatened him in the presence of police personnel. Raising concerns over Govindu's past conduct, Chetan also accused him of misusing the name of Dr Rajkumar.

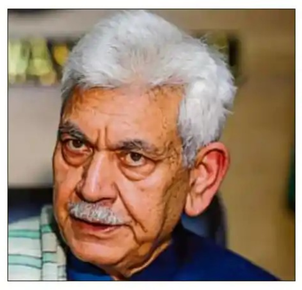
He said Govindu was "not fit to call himself a fan of Dr Rajkumar", and alleged that he intimidates those who speak for the welfare of the film industry.

"Based on the complaint, we have sought legal opinion to file an FIR in the case and on further action", a senior police officer from Sheshadripuram station said.

The development comes amidst ongoing tensions after the Dr Rajkumar Fans' Association demanded action against Chetan over his social media remarks regarding the state government's allotment of 2.5 acres of land for a memorial to the late actor.

L-G goes all-out, breaks drug cartels, their terror links in J&K

350 FIRs, 440 arrests in the last 20 days


L-G Manoj Sinha

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

At a time when rising narcotics abuse has emerged as a serious social and security challenge in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has spearheaded a sustained and security-driven offensive against drug networks, with the administration saying it has shown visible disruption in supply chains and growing public mobilisation against addiction.

At an interaction with journalists at Lok Bhawan on Saturday, Sinha reviewed the progress of the 100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan and sought feedback, signalling a hands-on approach as the campaign enters a crucial phase.

The anti-drug drive comes against the backdrop of increasing substance abuse in the Valley, particularly involving heroin and other opioids. Observations from Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Kashmir indicate a steady rise in patients seeking treatment over the past decade, with a significant proportion comprising young users dependent on opioids.

Health experts have consistently flagged that opioid dependence forms a major share of substance abuse cases, with many patients in their late teens and twenties—highlighting the vulnerability of the youth population.

Acknowledging the scale of the challenge, Sinha said efforts since 2021 under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan have yielded results, but more needs to be done. "We have achieved some success, but not to the extent we had hoped. The increasing addiction among youth is worrying and demands collective action," he said.

What marks a shift in the administration's approach is the clear linkage drawn between narcotics trafficking and terrorism. "The drug racket here has a direct link with terrorism," Sinha said, adding that proceeds from narcotics often fuel violence and destabilising activities.

Officials say this framing has led to a more coordinated crackdown aimed at dismantling the entire drug ecosystem rather than isolated arrests.

Under the intensified campaign, strict enforcement measures have been rolled out. Standard Operating Procedures under the NDPS Act are being implemented rigorously, with authorities targeting traffickers through financial investigations and administrative action.

Measures include seizure of vehicles used in drug transport, freezing of bank accounts, attachment of properties, cancellation of driving licences and recommendations for passport cancellation. Lookout notices are also being issued against absconders.

"Lookout notices are being issued and the entire network is being targeted to break the supply chain," Sinha said.

The scale of enforcement has been significant. In the past 20 days alone, around 350 FIRs have been registered and 440 drug traffickers arrested, according to official figures.

Officials say the crackdown has begun to impact availability and distribution in certain areas, while also creating deterrence among local peddlers.

Alongside enforcement, the administration has focused on treatment and rehabilitation. Sinha said de-addiction centres are being monitored to ensure standards, with non-compliant facilities facing closure. Hospitals have been directed to strengthen outpatient and inpatient services for addiction treatment.

A long-term rehabilitation mechanism is also being developed. "We are working on a system to track recovered individuals for up to three years to ensure sustained rehabilitation," he said.

ED's arrests decline; highest-ever raids during FY26: Report

Taking up 'more targeted and evidence-based investigations'

NEW DELHI, PTI

Arrests effected by the ED in money laundering cases have reduced by about 27% during the last financial year, but the value of attached assets recorded an all-time high at over 81,000 crore for the period, official data stated.

Searches or raids conducted by the central agency under the stringent provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) almost doubled to 2,892 during the 2025-26 fiscal that ended on March 31.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sweeping powers under the PMLA in connection with the definition of the proceeds of crime, power of arrest, search and seizure and attachment of properties. The provisions of the Act also make securing bail extremely difficult because the court must be satisfied that the accused is not guilty, as well as not likely to commit another crime while on bail.

In the past fiscal, the ED breached its set target of restoring attached assets to victims of fraud by double, as it restituted properties worth more than Rs 32,000 crore during the said time period. The agency had set a target of restoring assets worth Rs 15,000 crore at the start of the FY26 in April 2025.

PTI accessed the data furnished by the agency in its annual report (FY 2025-26) and found that the ED arrested 156 persons during the fiscal as compared to 214 in 2024-25, a decline of about 27%. During 2023-24, the number stood at 272.

The ED reasoned that the arrests were reduced because it was undertaking "more targeted and evidence-based investigations".

Elaborating on the "highest-ever" provisional attachment of assets done by it in a single year (FY26)—a whopping 171% increase in value of attachments at Rs 81,422 crore under 712 orders—the agency said this was a "central instrument" through which it ensures that criminals are deprived and stripped of the fruits of crime generated "illicitly".

In comparison, the agency had issued 461 provisional attachment orders with assets valued at Rs 30,036 crore frozen during FY25.

As the name suggests, these attachment orders are provisional and are confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority of the PMLA, a quasi-judicial body.

The raids undertaken by the ED jumped to more than double at 2,892 during FY26, compared to 1,491 during the previous year.

The report added that the ED was not relying "entirely" on physical searches but its investigators were "triangulating" financial intelligence from multiple databases simultaneously, tracing cryptocurrency flows through blockchain analytics, and accessing corporate and property records in real-time.

This led the ED to successfully file a "record" 812 chargesheets during FY26 as compared to 457 such complaints for prosecution filed before courts during the previous year.

That is why, the report said, ED has been able to "significantly" reduce the life cycle of cases from the earlier three to four years to 1-1.5 years now.

Data showed that the number of Enforcement Case Information Reports (ECIRs) registered to trigger PMLA probes jumped 39% to 1,080 cases during the last fiscal as compared to 775 cases filed during FY25.

Postal ballots counted in Sringeri amid charges of tampering

CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS

Amid allegations of ballot boxes having been tampered with, the suspense over the outcome of the counting of postal ballots in the Sringeri Legislative Assembly constituency remained unknown till late in the night.

In the 2023 elections, T D Rajegowda of Congress had won the seat by a margin of only 201 votes. Of the 1,822 postal ballots that had been received, 279 were rejected – a move that BJP's defeated candidate D N Jeevaraj challenged in the High Court.

The High Court subsequently ordered a recount, and the strong room opened. It was then alleged that 20 boxes that were inside the strong room were neither locked nor sealed.

Rajegowda and his supporters said that ballots in unsealed boxes could not be counted since it hinted at the possibility of tampering. Although Rajegowda asked for the recount to be delayed till the court ruled on this finding, officials informed him that the court had itself ordered the counting.

However, both Rajegowda and his agent Sudheer Kumar Murolli recorded their objections.

The number of rejected ballots was later revised to 267, of which eight were declared valid. Officials added them to the 1,540 ballots that had been deemed valid in 2023. When the first 350 ballots were being counted, 50 ballots were found marked for both Rajegowda and Jeevaraj. On being informed of this development, Rajegowda reiterated his suspicions of the ballots having been tampered with. He said that he would not allow counting to proceed.

Meanwhile, BJP workers gathered in front of the counting centre, and raised slogans against Rajegowda, accusing him of trying to obstruct the process. In response, Congress workers assembled and raised slogans against the BJP.

COUNTING HOUSEHOLDS

An enumerator marks a house during the first phase of Census 2027 at Ramji Chak, in Patna, Bihar on Saturday. PTI PHOTO

CM discusses divestment, questions delays

Disinvestment, from Page 3

The chief mminister pushed departments to speed up execution of Budget announcements and said, "The Budget has 565 announcements, including 218 new ones. So far, GOs have been issued for only five. If all orders are not issued within May, the secretaries concerned would be held responsible."

Siddaramaiah said reservation in contracts up to Rs 2 crore for SC/ST contractors must not be bypassed by bundling works into packages. All projects must finish on schedule to avoid cost escalation.

With rainfall likely to be 5% below normal this year, district in-charge secretaries must monitor drinking water availability and hold meetings with DCs and ZP CEOs to ensure no disruption, he said.

B L Santhosh meets Yediyurappa

BENGALURU, DHNS

B L Santhosh

Yediyurappa

BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) B L Santhosh visited the party's veteran leader-former chief minister B S Yediyurappa's residence here on Saturday.

The two leaders later unusually went public about the meeting through their social media accounts. Yediyurappa and Santhosh - seen as rivals - publicly expressed mutual admiration.

In a social media post, Santhosh said he discussed "various present-day political and social issues" with Yediyurappa.

Santhosh said Yediyurappa has completed 50 years in public life and a felicitation ceremony will be held in Chitradurga on May 9. Yediyurappa described Santhosh's visit as "cordial" and said they discussed BJP's prospects of a "historical win" when results of elections in various states are out on May 4. Yediyurappa also hailed Santhosh. "His organisational skills are an inspiration to party workers," he said. "You (Santhosh) are managing the party's organisation across the country with utmost efficiency."

According to a source close to Santhosh, he "always" meets Yediyurappa on every visit to Bengaluru. "Only this time, Yediyurappa made photographs of their meeting public. Even Santhosh posted pictures after a while," the source said.

On May 9, BJP aims to mobilise 10 lakh people for Yediyurappa's felicitation. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to attend the event.

COMEDK exam: Students fume over centres outside Karnataka

BENGALURU DHNS: Some students who have registered for the Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMEDK) 2026 entrance test scheduled to be held on May 9, were shocked to know that they had been allotted exam centres outside Karnataka.

The COMEDK issued the hall tickets on Saturday. Students complained that they were allotted exam centres in Chennai, Hyderabad and other faraway places, though they had not opted for centres in these cities. Soon after the hall tickets were issued, several students took to social media to express their shock. Some even approached the COMEDK authorities.

"I opted for centres in Bengaluru or Mysuru, but I have been allotted a centre in Chennai. The authorities are saying it is final," said a student.

Another candidate said that she had chosen a centre in Bengaluru, but was allotted a centre in Hyderabad, as per the hall ticket. COMEDK is a national-level, computer-based entrance exam for admission to undergraduate courses in over 150 private unaided engineering colleges in Karnataka.

This year, approximately 1.4 lakh students are expected to appear for the COMEDK exam. The test will be conducted in various cities across India.

A COMEDK official told *DH* that about 2,600 students had been allotted centres which were not of their choice. "In February, the students were informed about it. We have made 6,000 additional seating arrangements for the examination, in Bengaluru and Mysuru, cities which were opted for by a majority of the students. But those who applied at the last minute have been alloted centres either in Chennai or Hyderabad, considering the connectivity," the official said.

Peacock deaths: H5N1 confirmed; 38 villages on alert

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Health and Family Welfare department has confirmed the presence of H5N1-Avian influenza in peacock samples collected from Tumakuru.

As many as 44 peacocks were reported dead from Kolihalli, Bairasandra, Hullenahalli, Timmegoudanpalya and other villages of Tumakuru district mid-April. The samples from the carcasses were sent to ICAR/NIHSAD, Bhopal, and the results were out on April 29.

Following this, the state and district rapid response teams convened an inter-sectoral coordination meeting under the leadership of deputy commissioner, Tumakuru, to review the situation.

An infected zone of 0–3 km and surveillance zone of 3–10 km radius were established.

"Fever, ILI, and SARI surveillance will be conducted in the next 10 days in 38 villages," a statement by the department said.

It has advised people to avoid contact with sick or dead birds, wash hands frequently with soap and water, use personal protective equipment when handling birds or their droppings, cook poultry and eggs well (>80°c) before consumption and avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness.

Dr Rajini M is new director of health dept

Dr Rajini M

BENGALURU, DHNS: Dr Rajini M has been appointed as the director of the health and family welfare department, following the superannuation of Vasanth Kumar.

She currently serves as additional director of National Health Mission.

The doctor has contributed towards prevention measures for dengue and H1N1, enforcement of Karnataka Private Medical Establishment Act and Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostics Techniques Act.

India can be new anchor of stability, says RSS chief

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

India can become the new anchor of stability in a fracturing world, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Saturday at the iconic Gateway of India in Mumbai.

"Given the current turmoil and global upheaval, only a strong and resilient India can become the foundation of the world. To achieve this, India must take all communities along and bring tribal communities into the mainstream of development," he said at the "Karmayogi Ekal Shikshak Mela", which honoured teachers spreading education in tribal areas.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, State Tribal Development Minister Ashok Uikey, and Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar were also present at the event.

The Late Laxmanrao Mankar Smriti Sanstha, which organised the teachers' event, operates under the guidance of Gadkari and the chairmanship of noted businessman Atul Shirodkar.

The Nagpur-based organisation, which runs Ekal Vidyalayas in the Vidarbha region, now plans to expand into tribal areas across Maharashtra.

Bhagwat said that tribal people do not have the facilities generally available to people across the country.

Rising e-waste, weak recycling choke Karnataka

E-waste, From Top News page?

Poor awareness among people and lack of means to dispose of e-waste has only pushed citizens to pile them up at home or dump them illegally. Many citizens the *DH* spoke to were unaware of how to dispose of e-waste and as a result, either kept them at home or gave it off to informal collectors. Most of the informal collectors dismantle the electronic items and collect a few valuable parts and dump the rest on roadsides or blackspots.

According to the KSPCB, there are bins kept to collect e-waste at many locations and they are trying to create more awareness.

"We are also in the process of setting up 56 new processing units with a total capacity of one lakh tonnes," a senior KSPCB official said.

Also, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy is expected to ease down and regulate the sector better.

Iran military official says renewed war with US 'likely'

Iran, from Page 3

Meanwhile, Washington announced late Friday it had approved major arms sales to its allies in the Middle East, including a $4 billion Patriot missile deal with Qatar and nearly $1 billion in precision weapons systems to Israel.

In Washington, lawmakers were wrestling with a legal dispute over whether Trump had breached a deadline to seek congressional approval for the war. Administration officials argue that the ceasefire pauses a 60-day limit, after which congressional authorisation would be required — a claim disputed by opposition Democrats.

SC rejects TMC plea on central staff for counting

SC, from Page 3

"To choose wholly from one pool cannot be said to be incorrect," the bench said.

The bench asked Sibal, "What is this proportionate representation concept?" However, Sibal pressed that the state government nominee has not been appointed.

"So have you written to them... You were challenging the circular and now you are saying to follow it," the bench said. "No further order was necessary, except to reiterate Naidu's statement that the circular dated April 13 would be implemented in letter and spirit," the court said in its order.

The Calcutta High Court had on April 30 dismissed the TMC's petition, holding there was no illegality in the EC's decision to appoint counting supervisors and assistants from central government and public sector undertaking (PSU) employees instead of state government staff.

Trinamool Congress was aggrieved with the order issued by Additional Chief Electoral Officer for lacking jurisdiction to issue such an order.

The plea contended the direction issued by the officer went against the EC's handbook, which did not require the use of central government staff for the roles. Though micro-observers are required to be central government or PSU employees, extending this requirement to counting supervisors and assistants was arbitrary and unique to West Bengal, the plea contended.

It also contended that since the central government is controlled by a political party, central employees may be susceptible to influence, affecting the level playing field.

The plea also sought a direction to preserve CCTV footage of all counting rooms during the pendency of the proceedings.

Tirumala laddu row: Panel flags deep administrative lapses

Finds nexus of violations, collusion in ghee purchase

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The one-man committee, appointed by the Andhra Pradesh government to review the Tirumala prasadam investigation report, has found a deep-rooted nexus of administrative failures, procedural violations and possible collusion that enabled the supply of adulterated ghee used in the 'Srivari Laddu'.

According to sources, the committee, headed by former Chief Secretary Dinesh Kumar, fixed accountability on senior officials and the procurement machinery, holding them responsible for creating conditions that allowed contaminated ghee to enter the sacred supply chain.

The report, submitted to the state government a few days ago, has identified former executive officer AV Dharma Reddy as the principal figure responsible for major lapses.

Another former executive officer, Anil Kumar Singhal, has been held accountable for relaxing criteria in the tender without due diligence.

FINDINGS

- TTD reportedly procured over 70 lakh kg of ghee for Tirupati laddus without mandatory quality testing
- Lab findings indicated presence of vegetable fats, but reports were allegedly suppressed and not acted upon
- Procurement rules, tender norms, and safety safeguards were allegedly diluted or bypassed over time
- Committee lapses, lack of independent checks, and weak lab infrastructure compromised quality control

The TTD's then Procurement Committee's role has come under severe scrutiny, with Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy and Bhumana Karunakar Reddy as special invitees, along with M Ramulu and Chief Accounts Officer O Balaji, found to have participated in key decisions that diluted tender norms and weakened safeguards.

A CFTRI (Central Food Technological Research Institute) report dated August 3, 2022, detected -Sitosterol, a marker of vegetable oil adulteration, in all tested samples. Despite this, the report was not acted upon, suppliers were not blacklisted and procurement continued unchecked.

Firms continued supply despite disqualification

The committee also pointed out that the Uttarakhand-based M/s Bhole Baba Organic Dairy Milk Pvt. Ltd was declared ineligible seven months after the December 2021 contract award.

However, the company continued supplying ghee and received additional 15% quantity order despite disqualification and adverse CFTRI report.

In another instance, the committee found that M/s Sri Vyshnavi Dairy Specialties Pvt Ltd inflated its production by 2,000 times.

Vyshnavi was the sole participant in AP dairy tender of May 2022 at Rs 511/kg. After the financial bid, it submitted an email offering Rs 471/kg. TTD accepted it, directly violating the no-negotiation rule.

No public religious use of private land, rules HC

Bench says freedom of religion subject to public order and regulation

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The Allahabad High Court has said that the protection under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution (guaranteeing fundamental right to freedom of religion) is confined to activity that is truly private, occasional and non-disruptive and that it does not extend to transforming any private premises into a de facto public religious venue.

The Court also said that the Public land was meant for everyone and was controlled by law, and that no individual could claim a right to use it for regular religious gatherings.

A division bench comprising Justices Garima Prashad and Saral Srivastava gave this ruling recently while rejecting a petition by a Sambhal resident seeking permission for Namaz (prayer) at what he contended was his private premises.

The petitioner contended that Namaz had been offered at the land, which he claimed to be his private property, and alleged that the authorities were restraining such prayers, violating his fundamental rights.

"The Constitution protects the right to practice religion, but it also makes it clear that this right is subject to public order, morality and health. It is not an unlimited right. It cannot be exercised in a way that affects others or disturbs the normal functioning of public life," the court said.

LEGAL LIMITS

- Allahabad HC says Articles 25 & 26 are not absolute and are subject to public order, morality, and health
- Individual or family prayer within private premises remains constitutionally protected
- Private property cannot be turned into a regular or de facto public religious gathering space

"When it comes to public land, the position is straightforward. Public land is meant for everyone and is controlled by law. No individual can claim a right to use it for regular religious gatherings," it remarked.

The court said that the position in respect of private property stood on a different footing. Private prayer, family worship, and such limited devotional activity as remains genuinely internal to the premises ordinarily fell within the protected domain of Articles 25 and 26.

"This protection, however, is confined to activity that is truly private, occasional, and non-disruptive. It does not extend to transforming any private premises into a de facto public religious venue," it added.

"Once the activity assumes such a congregational character, it is no longer merely a matter of inward faith. It begins to produce external consequences: it may draw repeated attendance, including persons beyond the immediate household, affect ingress and egress, create traffic and parking concerns, alter the character of the locality, generate noise, require policing, and in sensitive areas, create the possibility of inter-community tension. At that stage, the activity assumes a public or quasi-public dimension. It is not that the private property loses all protection, but that the use of such property, to that extent, no longer remains purely private for constitutional purposes and becomes amenable to reasonable regulation," the court said.

TRICOLOUR GLORY

The Andaman and Nicobar administration on Saturday set a new Guinness World Record by unfurling the world's largest underwater national flag, measuring approximately 60 by 40 metre, at Radhanagar beach. PTI

First India-bound LPG tanker crosses Hormuz in 2 weeks

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India-bound LPG tanker 'Sarv Shakti' on Saturday successfully crossed the critical Strait of Hormuz and is now heading toward the Gulf of Oman, according to marine tracking data.

This marks the first significant India-linked energy tanker to navigate the choke point in nearly two weeks.

The Marshall Islands-flagged vessel, carrying approximately 45,000 tonnes of LPG, moved into the Gulf of Oman after sailing past Iran's Larak and Qeshm islands on Saturday as prescribed by Tehran.

The ship has 20 crew members onboard, including 18 Indians. It is expected to arrive at Visakhapatnam on May 13, and was chartered by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), though the company is yet to officially confirm it.

It briefly stopped transmitting its location earlier — a maritime practice known as "going dark" — commonly used to avoid detection in high-risk areas. The development comes amid heightened tensions in the region.

On April 18, crude oil tanker Desh Garima was the last Indian-linked ship to cross the Strait after Iran briefly announced safe passage, only for the waterway to be effectively closed again shortly after. The same day, Iranian forces fired on two Indian vessels, forcing several India-bound ships to turn back.

Since the outbreak of conflict on February 28, the Indian government has identified Sarv Shakti and other critical vessels for priority evacuation.

Facing 400 years of jail term in US, Savani brothers say case due to racial prejudice

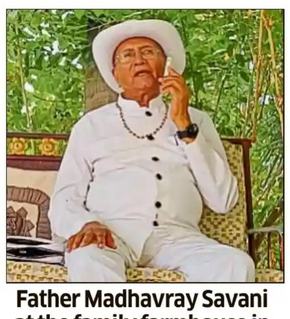
SATISH JHA,
AHMEDABAD/AMRELI, DHNS

Bhaskar Savani, one of the two brothers facing imprisonment of over 400 years in the US, has claimed that the case against him is driven by political motivations and racial prejudice.

Bhaskar and his younger brother Arun, founders of the Savani Group in the US, were convicted last month, while their third brother, Niranjan, was acquitted.

They have roots in Gujarat's Amreli district. The Savanis built a multi-state dental healthcare platform over the past three decades, with 76 clinics across six states.

"As proven at trial, the brothers Bhaskar Savani and Arun Savani built a complex criminal enterprise (the "Savani Group") that amassed millions of dollars through multiple fraud schemes,"



Father Madhavray Savani at the family farmhouse in Virdi, Gujarat. DH PHOTO

read the press statement issued by the US Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania on March 9.

They were found guilty of filing false H-1B visa applications and petitions exploiting foreign workers, mostly Indians, who were dependent on their company. They were also held responsible for conspiracy to place prototype dental implants not cleared by the FDA in human patients without their consent.

The brothers have also been found guilty of defrauding Medicaid of more than $30 million.

A dentist by profession, Bhaskar claims in his defence that the charges represent "extreme overreach", with administrative issues turned into criminal offence. He said the authorities are "targeting successful Indians" like him due to racial prejudice.

"They are extremely jealous of Indians doing well," Bhaskar told *DH* over WhatsApp calls from the US. While the sentencing will take place in July, the brothers have sought presidential pardon, which is pending.

"There is no direct evidence of fraudulent intent, no proof linking them personally to alleged false claims, no evidence of intentional wrongdoing in financial or tax matters. Instead, the case relies on hindsight interpretations of complex business operations — transforming routine administrative and operational practices into allegations of criminal conduct," the brothers had stated denying the charges.

The brothers are first-generation migrants from Mota Bhamodara village in Amreli district, located in the Saurashtra region, where they still have strong ties.

The brothers have a sprawling mango farm in Virdi village, close to their native village, where mangoes worth lakhs are exported to the US and elsewhere.

Dressed in a spotless white bandhgala suit with matching trousers, socks, shoes and a hat to match, Madhavray Savani sits on a swing.

"... they will get justice or maybe pardoned by the president Donald Trump if only we could reach him," he says.

India should build strategic buffers for energy shock: CEA

V Anantha Nageswaran

NEW DELHI, PTI: Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran on Saturday said India needs to create strategic buffers in the face of the "most difficult" energy shock that the country is experiencing amid the West Asia crisis.

Nageswaran also said the rising prices of fertiliser and petroleum products globally due to the crisis will make it challenging to achieve the 4.3% fiscal deficit target for the current fiscal, while below-normal monsoon and the pass-through of higher energy prices could lead to a "potential inflation spike".

He also said India has an employment challenge emanating from AI, and there is a need to ensure that the IT sector becomes more competitive, and does not lose jobs to AI, and instead creates jobs that use AI within the IT sector or in other services.

Speaking at an event, Nageswaran said the current account deficit (CAD) in the current fiscal could rise to over 2% of GDP, from less than 1% in FY'26.

"The ... priority for us is to create strategic buffers. This energy shock is the most difficult one compared to any other previous energy shock in terms of energy lost as a percentage of the total global energy supply, not just oil but also gas.

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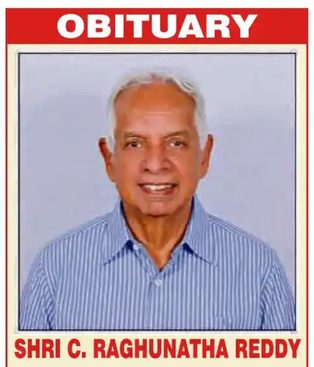
12th ANNIVERSARY
EVER LOVING MEMORY OF

Smt. Saraswathi B.R. Setty
9-11-1938 - 3-5-2014

You will always live in our hearts and memories

W/o Dr. B. V. Ramalinga Setty
Mrs. Mythrai Setty-Daughter
Dr. B.R. Ravindra Setty-Son
Dr. Latika Setty-Daughter-in-law
B.R. Yashodhan Setty
Grandson

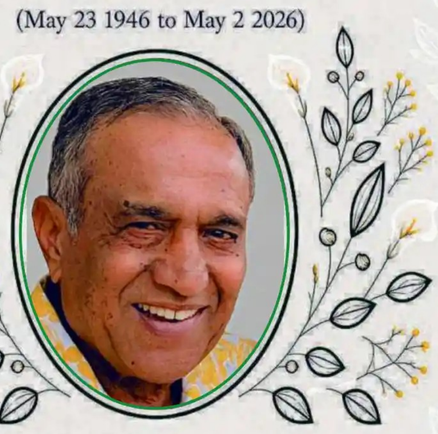
OBITUARY



SHRI C. RAGHUNATHA REDDY
30.11.1932 - 2.5.2026
With profound sorrow, we announce the passing of
Shri C. Raghunatha Reddy. Funeral to be held On Monday 4th May 2026, 1-00 p.m. at Chira Shanti Dham, Hebbal Electric Crematorium.
A loving and respected soul, deeply cherished by all who knew him.
Lovingly remembered by
Smt. Gayathri Reddy,
Deepa, Christoph, Devi, Prithvi, Pratima, Punya, and Prarthna.

Peter George Mathias

(May 23 1946 to May 2 2026)



We have lost Peter to our beloved Lord.

He fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.

A man of strong principles, loyal to God and country, always positive and full of laughter.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew him and by his family.

Lorna
Sanjay & Priya, Torun & Farah, Rajiv & Anjana, Arya & Tanvi, Luca & Leah, and Gia.

VIEWING	FUNERAL SERVICE	BURIAL
Monday, May 4 2026	Monday, May 4 2026	Monday, May 4 2026
10:45 AM	11:00 AM	After Service
St. Patrick's Church	St. Patrick's Church	Hosur Cemetery
Bangalore	Bangalore	Bangalore

Prasoon Joshi named Prasar Bharti chairman

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Lyricist Prasoon Joshi was on Saturday appointed the Chairman of Prasar Bharati, the country's public service broadcaster. He succeeds former IAS officer Navneet Kumar Sehgal, who resigned in December last year.

Announcing his appointment, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said Joshi is a "distinguished creative professional" with wide-ranging contributions across literature, advertising, cinema, and public communication.

Prasoon Joshi

Known for his "impactful writing and deep cultural sensibility", it said, he has played a "significant role" in shaping contemporary Indian media narratives.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Joshi is a "rare creative spirit".

Before this appointment, Joshi has served as Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), Mumbai, since August 2017.

(From left) Inspector Sukhram Vatti (40) of the DRG, constable Krishna Komra (35) of the district force, constable Parmanand Komra (29) of the Bastar Fighters, and constable Sanjay Gadhpale (29) of the Bastar Fighters. PTI

4 police personnel killed as IED goes off in Chhattisgarh

KANKER, PTI: Four police personnel, including an inspector of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), were killed after an improvised explosive device (IED) went off while they were trying to neutralise it during a demining operation in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Saturday, police said.

This was the first blast incident linked to Naxalite activity in the state since it was declared free from armed Maoism on March 31. It was also the first instance this year in which security personnel engaged in anti-Naxal operations lost their lives.

The explosion occurred around 11.30 am in a forest area of Aadnar village, near the Narayanpur district border, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraj Pattilingam said.

Based on the inputs received from surrendered Maoist cadres and other intelligence over the past few months, security forces had recovered and neutralised hundreds of IEDs planted earlier by Naxalites across the Bastar range, including Kanker. Saturday's operation was launched following similar inputs, he said.

During the operation, the team first detected a Maoist dump and recovered materials belonging to the ultras. Around 11.30 am, they found another dump containing an IED concealed beneath the ground. However, the explosive went off while personnel were attempting to retrieve it, the official said.

Inspector Sukhram Vatti (40) of the DRG, constable Krishna Komra (35), and constable Sanjay Gadhpale (29) succumbed to their injuries on the spot. Another constable, Parmanand Komra (29), died in Raipur hospital, he said.

ENERGY DRIVE

India boosts nuclear ambitions with new fuel facility in Kota

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With India constructing a fleet of 700 MW nuclear power reactors, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has approved operationalisation of the country's second nuclear fuel manufacturing unit in Kota.

The Nuclear Fuel Complex, Kota, will produce uranium oxide fuel for indigenous PHWRs, or pressurised heavy water reactors, particularly for the 700 MWe units at Kakrapar in Gujarat and Rawatbhatta in Rajasthan.

NFC-Kota submitted its application for an operating licence to the AERB in March after the completion of hot commissioning activities, proposing the production of 500 tonnes per year of finished uranium dioxide fuel bundles for use in 700 MWe PHWRs.

"The AERB conducted a safety review and assessment of NFC-Kota's application for licence for operation...the proposed activity of operation can be carried out in compliance (with) this licence without undue risk to workers, the public and the environment," the regulator said in the approval.

India currently has three operational 700 MWe nuclear reactors at Kakrapar and Rawatbhatta. A fourth such unit, RAPS-8, is expected to be operational shortly. In addition, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is building 10 more such units in a fleet mode in Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Once functional, they will substantially boost India's nuclear power generation capacity.

The Centre has set a target of generating 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047, nearly half of which is expected to be provided by the NPCIL. The number of 700 MWe units, sources said, would be enhanced to ramp up the capacity quickly.

Further breakdown of the targets shows that the plan is to achieve 22 GW of nuclear energy by 2032; 47 GW by 2037; 67 GW by 2042; and 100 GW by 2047, contributing nearly 10% of India's total energy needs.

Kudankulam project moves ahead

The AERB has granted permission for the erection of major equipment at Units 5 and 6 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project in Tamil Nadu. The clearance allows the NPCIL to proceed with the installation of critical plant components, , including the reactor pressure vessel, steam generators, and coolant pumps, marking a significant milestone in the project's construction phase.

The AERB said the approval follows the satisfactory completion of a multi-tier safety review of the reactor design, in line with its prescribed safety requirements. The regulator also assessed the progress of civil construction activities undertaken under the earlier permission granted in April 2021 for the "First Pour of Concrete" (FPC).

(With inputs from Mrityunjay Bose, Mumbai)

FAMILY RIFT

From Akka to Amma: TRS chief tries to reconnect with Telangana roots

Kavitha looks to forge her own legacy beyond KCR's shadow

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

For days before and a week after former MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha launched her political party, large cutouts of hers stayed up at prominent junctions across Hyderabad. This led certain sections within the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) — Telangana's main Opposition party — to allege that the Congress was propping up Kavitha against it. After all, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) routinely pulls down BRS hoardings by the evening.

Kavitha's announcement of the Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) on April 25 landed with deliberate precision: The BRS was wrapping up a year-long celebration of its silver jubilee on April 27. The BRS, originally founded as the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) on April 27, 2001, had been rechristened by its founder and former Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao — also Kavitha's father — when he pivoted towards national ambitions.

By reviving the TRS acronym and anchoring her party firmly in the Telangana identity, Kavitha appeared to be reclaiming the emotional and political ground her father had, in her view, abandoned. The Election Commission has since provisionally allotted her party the name Telangana Rakshana Sena — and not the Telangana Rashtra Sena.

When Kavitha unveiled the party on April 25, she announced the abbreviation TRS without spelling out the full name, an ambiguity that may yet have consequences.

A parting shot

What caught observers off guard the most, however, was not the party's name but Kavitha's blistering critique of KCR himself.

Last year, when the family rift surfaced, Kavitha spoke of her father as a god besieged by demons. By April 25, that framing had darkened considerably. "He is not our KCR. He is a changed man, a machine-man," she declared at the party launch, adding, with pointed sorrow, that she spoke those words not in anger but in grief.

She revealed she had been suspended from the BRS for speaking out against corruption, while "corrupt rats" remained in KCR's inner circle. "I was suspended for speaking the truth. KCR is now a soulless puppet, held captive among foxes and wolves," she said.

Her sharpest lines carried an unmistakably regional sting. "He did a padayatra for the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme, but did nothing for Palamuru. The KCR of those days would have sat right there and seen it through. Instead, he went off to Punjab, Gujarat, and Bihar, declaring he had swept the state clean and rebranded as a national party. If he had truly cared about Telangana's people, would Palamuru-Rangareddy have run dry?" she asked.

Senior journalist and political analyst Raka Sudhakar noted how unusual this was in the context of the Telugu states' political history. "Whether it was Nandamuri Harikrishna, Daggubati Purandheswari, Y S Sharmila or Y S Jagan, all of them fought for the legacy of their fathers — NTR and YSR, respectively — and never uttered a negative word about them publicly. Kavitha is a stark exception," he told *DH*.

Telangana Rakshana Sena president K Kavitha interacts with the media in Hyderabad on Saturday. PTI

Suffocated for space

The political logic behind the break is not hard to gauge. With her cousins — former Rajya Sabha member Joginapally Santosh and former minister T Harish Rao — and brother K T Rama Rao firmly entrenched in the BRS hierarchy, Kavitha had little room to grow.

Floating a party of her own that conspicuously resurrects the Telangana identity that KCR had shed allows her to position herself as a leader in her own right.

She has framed that ambition in the language of maternal care rather than political ambition. Long known as "Kavithakka" (elder sister Kavitha), she now aspires to be "Amma" — a mother figure — to Telangana's 3.9 crore people.

Her supporters have started calling her "Kavithamma". Meanwhile, she has promised that "Telangana Amma" will govern with a mother's heart.

The BRS leadership, for its part, has responded with studied indifference. KCR, who attended the party's silver jubilee valedictory, said nothing publicly about his daughter or her new party. KTR, when asked by a journalist, was dismissive, saying that many parties had been born in Telangana before.

Long road ahead

Political analysts are measured in their assessments. "I don't see any considerable impact beyond [the new party] being a minor irritant to the BRS," said senior journalist and political analyst Telakapalli Ravi.

"Whatever impact she generates will fall primarily on BRS; she could also serve as a rehabilitation platform for leaders disenchanted with KCR or KTR's style of functioning. But it's too early to say anything definitive. A lot depends on how aggressively she goes after the BRS," he told *DH*.

Sudhakar echoed the caution. "Maintaining a political party is not easy. It demands resources of every kind, organisational capability, and sustained effort," he said.

Whether Kavitha can translate her undeniable name recognition and rhetorical momentum into durable political capital remains the central question. She has broken out of her father's shadow for now, but building her own politically strong outfit is another matter entirely.

Oppn meet on cards, delimitation and quota key focus

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

BLOC HUDDLE

- Opposition alliance expected to meet in Delhi after May 4 results to discuss strategy
- Fears the Centre may reintroduce Lok Sabha delimitation Bill after earlier setback
- Oppn wants 33% quota implemented without linking it to delimitation
- Poll results could shape roles of key players like TMC and Left in bloc

The I.N.D.I.A bloc is likely to meet later this month to discuss strategy and future course of action, as the Opposition feels that the Narendra Modi government may again try to bring a Bill for the delimitation of Lok Sabha seats after the first one was defeated in the Lok Sabha.

The meeting, likely to be held in Delhi, will come only after the Assembly elections' results on May 4 and is unlikely to be a post-mortem of the outcome. I.N.D.I.A-bloc allies have fought against each other in West Bengal and Kerala.

The electoral outcome, however, will have a bearing on the meeting. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) may demand a more active leadership role if Mamata Banerjee returns to power in West Bengal. The Left parties' attitude over the Kerala results also remains to be seen.

Sources said the Opposition parties had not had the opportunity to discuss issues after defeating the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, on delimitation and the subsequent implementation of women's quota in legislative bodies.

The Bill could not get the required two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha during the special sitting last month. While the NDA got 298 votes, the Opposition polled 230, leaving the ruling side with a deficit of 54 votes.

The Opposition has been arguing that women's quota should be implemented at the existing number of 543 seats, and that the government did not hold detailed discussions on the contours of the proposed delimitation, which it felt was discriminatory to southern states.

A senior Opposition leader said the meeting would see discussions on how to tackle the government's next move if it plans to bring a new Bill on delimitation and then link it to the women's quota.

"They are smarting under a defeat, but are not going to let it be. We will have to have a strategy," the leader said.

The meeting will discuss several scenarios, including writing a joint letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking the implementation of 33% women's quota. The joint letter idea could not be implemented as parties like the TMC were against such an exercise during the poll-campaign phase.

The Opposition pointed to Home Minister Amit Shah's proposal to a few parties during meetings in March, that the Lok Sabha seats would be increased by 50% for all states. "This itself showed the government's intentions," the leader said.

The Opposition also dismissed theories that the ruling BJP was aware of the Bill's possible defeat when it brought it to the Lok Sabha. "The Bill was aimed at winning the 2029 elections. We read through their motives," the leader said.

EC orders full repoll in Bengal's Falta constituency

Flags severe electoral offences, subversion of democratic process

KOLKATA, PTI

Security personnel stand guard as voters wait in a queue at a polling station in Magrahat Paschim constituency, South 24 Parganas district, on Saturday. PTI

The Election Commission on Saturday ordered repoll in all 285 polling booths of the Falta Assembly constituency in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on May 21, an official said.

The repoll was ordered due to "severe electoral offences and subversion of the democratic process" on April 29, when voting in Falta was held in the second phase of the assembly elections, he said.

The commission said repoll across all the booths, including auxiliary polling stations, will be held between 7 am and 6 pm on May 21, under "stringent security arrangements to ensure a free, fair and transparent" exercise.

Counting of votes for the constituency will take place on May 24.

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

The commission, in its order, said it had carefully examined reports submitted by the Chief Electoral Officer, District Election Officer, Returning Officer and other field functionaries, along with inputs from observers and available material on record before arriving at the decision.

Reports from observers "flagged allegations of voter intimidation, unauthorised presence inside booths and possible tampering", it said.

"In view of the gravity of the incidents reported and the vitiation of the poll process, the commission hereby declares the poll held on April 29 in Falta Assembly Constituency as void and orders a fresh poll in all polling stations," the order stated.

The panel has directed authorities to make all necessary arrangements, including deployment of adequate central forces, micro-observers and webcasting facilities, wherever required, to prevent "any recurrence of malpractice". It also directed that the entire poll process be videographed and closely monitored.

BJP leader Sukanta Majumdar welcomed the decision, and stated that the repoll was a "victory of the women of Falta" over the "atrocities" of local TMC leader Jahangir Khan.

In Falta, Khan is pitted against BJP's Debangshu Panda and Abdur Razzak Molla of the Congress. CPM's Sambhu Nath Kurmi is also in the fray.

Reacting to the development, TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee said in a post on X: "Ten lifetimes won't be enough for your Bangla Birodhi Gujarati gang and their stooge Gyanesh Kumar to put even a dent in my DIAMOND HARBOUR MODEL. Bring everything you have got. I challenge the entire Union of India - Come to Falta. Send your strongest, send one of the godfathers from Delhi. If you have got the nerve, contest in Falta."

Strong turnout in repoll

Repolling in 15 booths of two Assembly constituencies in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district concluded at 6 pm on Saturday, with around 87% turnout recorded an hour before the close of voting, PTI reports quoting an official.

A voter turnout of 86.90% was recorded till 5 pm, with the figure from one booth still awaited, he said. Voting began at 7 am and continued till 6 pm.

Polling was more or less peaceful at 11 polling booths of the Magrahat Paschim Assembly constituency and four in Diamond Harbour. The EC had ordered a repoll on Friday, following reports of electoral malpractices.

TMC using 'unfair means' to win: BJP

NEW DELHI, DHNS & PTI

SUDHANSHU TRIVEDI
BJP national spokesperson

"When someone has a problem with peaceful polling without any violence or killing, it becomes evident that attempts to seize power through violence, coercion, intimidation and terror are crumbling

After the Supreme Court on Saturday refused to interfere with a Calcutta High Court decision on the deployment of central employees for vote counting in West Bengal, BJP accused the Trinamool Congress of attempting to win the elections through "unfair means".

BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the TMC government's opposition to central staff is proof that the party is insecure.

"The Supreme Court's decision is constitutionally appropriate. But the TMC's move to approach the top court with baseless allegations as grounds of its plea raises grave questions on the party's intentions," Trivedi said.

Trivedi also claimed that the Trinamool approached various courts more than 80 times in the past 10-12 years by "misusing constitutional instruments", and every time it had to face a "humiliating defeat".

The remarks came after the Supreme Court said no further order was necessary on the Trinamool's plea challenging the high court's dismissal of its petition against an Election Commission circular on the deployment of central government personnel for vote counting in West Bengal.

BJP has been accusing Trinamool Congress of running a machinery of electoral coercion in Bengal, a charge the latter has consistently denied. TMC is yet to formally respond to the BJP's latest remarks.

Vijay supporters disrupt church service

CHENNAI, DHNS: Hoping to get a glimpse of Vijay, hundreds of supporters on Saturday thronged the famous Velankanni Basilica and shouted slogans in praise of the TVK, after hearing that he cancelled his visit at the last minute.

TVK chief Vijay

The commotion delayed the mass services for a while, and it could resume after they were pacified by the pastors.

The actor was to offer prayers at the Basilica in Velankanni, 340 km from here, and the nearby Nagoor dargah.

However, he did not make it to the shrine, leading to disappointment among his supporters, who kept shouting the party's name, much to the discomfiture of the pastors.

The crowd swelled in the early hours of Saturday with the church filled with Vijay's supporters, who were uncontrollable.

Election verdict looms with UDF ahead in the race, LDF still in contest

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

An official sets up a CCTV camera at a counting centre in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. PTI

With only a day to go for the Kerala Assembly election results, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) is pinning high hopes of returning to power in Kerala after 10 years.

Even as all exit-polls gave an upper hand to UDF, the ruling CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) has not given up hope, especially since some surveys have found incumbent Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as the most favoured chief ministerial candidate.

For CPM, this election is crucial as Kerala is the lone state where the party is now in power. The party had survived a similar situation in 2021 as they retained power by winning 99 seats in the 140-member Assembly.

Though BJP is unlikely to make any wonders as per the exit polls, even winning one seat could be a relief for the party.

KERALA
Assembly Poll

BJP has been targeting at least 10 seats, but most of the exit polls predicted only zero to four seats for the saffron party.

Though Congress leaders were anticipating a clean sweep for UDF with up to 100 seats in the 140-member House, the exit polls predicted only an upper hand for UDF and not any sweep. Hence, both UDF and LDF are keeping fingers crossed ahead of counting on Monday.

CM post & rebel threat

Ever since the impressive performance in the 2025 local body polls, the UDF camps were highly confident of scripting success in the Assembly polls. This triggered a race for the CM post, which invited warnings from Rahul Gandhi. However, after the polling on April 9, the lobbying resurfaced.

This election was also marked by multiple rebel threats for CPM, even in its citadel Kannur district where two local leaders, T K Govindan and V Kunhikrishnan are in the fray as rebels, with the UDF's support. Former minister G Sudhakaran, who contested as rebel in Ambalapuzha, also has winning chances.

Allies raise pitch as fault lines emerge in DMK-led front before results

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

COALITION CRACKS

- Congress says it won't stay 'neutral', wants role in government or Opposition
- VCK and CPM flag lack of recognition, reduced seat share, and assert their relevance
- Allies debate DMK's likely seat tally, governance record, and future power-sharing

With just a day left before the counting of votes polled in the April 23 Assembly elections, cracks seem to have appeared in the ruling DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA), with alliance partners speaking in different voices and discussing the electoral performance of actor-politician Vijay's TVK.

Congress was the first ally to assert that it cannot remain "neutral" anymore and that the party must either be in the government or sit in the Opposition after the election results are out.

On Friday night, VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan said nobody could ignore the approach and strong stand his party took in the run-up to the elections, in the event of the DMK returning to power for a consecutive term. He also said Tamil Nadu politics would have witnessed a massive change if the VCK had insisted on additional assembly seats and jumped onto the "change bandwagon," an oblique reference to TVK and Vijay.

Not to be left behind was former CPM state secretary K Balakrishnan, who on Saturday accused the DMK of denying due recognition to the Left in this election. He also raised doubts about whether the DMK will form a single-party government or will depend on allies, while referring to exit polls projecting about 120-160 seats to the ruling alliance. "CPM and the CPI wanted to contest six seats, the number they contested in 2021. But the DMK was not willing to give them the number and reduced one each. Despite the refusal, we joined the alliance to prevent the BJP from gaining ground in Tamil Nadu," he said.

TAMIL NADU
Assembly Poll

On TVK and Vijay, Balakrishnan acknowledged that the youth wanted a change, and it is clear that they have developed political awareness and sought to know the DMK government's efforts to create jobs in the state.

DMDK chief Premalatha Vijayakanth did not comment about the exit polls but said she will discuss the issue after the results, when asked whether her party will demand a share in power.

SPA, which was once known for its unity and ideological commitment, has been speaking in different voices for the past few months, exposing chinks within.

The exit polls predicting a stupendous performance by TVK and a general perception that DMK allies might have suffered this election seem to be the reasons for alliance partners to speak in public. None of the allies, except the DMDK, were happy with the seat-sharing arrangement with Congress almost exiting the alliance in search of greener pastures (read TVK).

Thirumavalavan said that he was not willing to walk out of the alliance despite the DMK not allotting his party the number of seats they demanded, as he did not want to weaken the alliance.

MP Sandeep Pathak booked after AAP exit; BJP cries foul

CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI, PTI: Punjab Police has booked Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak, who recently switched from AAP to the BJP, with six others, sources said on Saturday.

Two FIRs have been lodged against Pathak under non-bailable sections, they said.

No further details about the FIRs have been disclosed yet.

Pathak was among the seven Rajya Sabha MPs who had quit the AAP and joined the BJP.

Meanwhile, the BJP accused AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal of indulging in vendetta politics and misusing the Punjab Police. BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi claimed that the police action reflects misplaced priorities.

Relations between India and Iran very good and strong: Hakeem Ilahi

INTERVIEW

'Iran never appointed Pak or any other country as interlocutor'

Amid a period of profound instability in West Asia, **Abdul Majid Hakeem Ilahi**, Iran's Supreme Leader's representative in India, offers a defiant assessment of the country's geopolitical stance in an interview with *DH*'s **Ashish Pandey**. Ilahi also outlines Tehran's readiness for long-term resistance while reaffirming its nuclear-free stance.

Excerpts:

As the conflict with the US and Israel prolongs, how does Iran assess its strategic endurance – calibrated resistance or a long war of attrition?
Iran didn't want the war and did everything it could to avoid it. Iran didn't have trust in the US, but negotiated with them 12 days before this war. And in the first negotiation in Oman, all members of the two delegations announced that the talks were successful. And then they started negotiating in Geneva. There, one member of the US delegation, who is from the UK, even said that he was surprised at how Iran offered America a lot of things and praised our generosity. But unfortunately, while we were at the negotiating table, they attacked Iran. And on the first day, they killed a lot of Iranian commanders. They even killed the Supreme Leader of Iran. As many as 170 innocent girls were killed. And Iran actually responded to them. Iran said we are ready to continue defending ourselves. We can continue like this for 2, 3, 4, 5, 8... years, because we have enough experience for that.

This war is just for two individuals. As the former US Secretary of State John Kerry mentioned, this war is just between the Prime Minister of Israel and Iran. This is an individual war... Iran is ready to continue to defend itself.

With leaders like Donald Trump asking Iran to abandon its nuclear ambitions, is there still room for diplomacy, or has that window closed?
Iran doesn't have nuclear weapons, and doesn't even want to have them. Iran has clearly announced several times that we don't have nuclear weapons. And our Supreme Leader issued a fatwa that having nuclear weapons is haram. We have the knowledge, but we don't want to have it. Even Rafael Mariano Grossi (IAEA chief) and some others have also announced that there is no evidence that Iran has nuclear weapons or wants to have it. If there is something that we have to negotiate and make clear, we are ready to do that. Iran is ready to solve this problem diplomatically, but if they don't want to, Iran is ready to defend itself.

What steps is Iran willing to take to prevent a wider escalation while protecting its core interests?
Iran looks at its own interests. Our priority is negotiation, but on our conditions. They offered us a 15-point plan, and they wanted a lot of things from Iran. We are not ready for that, as they want Iran to unconditionally surrender. Iran is ready to defend its dignity and humanity. We are the ones who will set the conditions and tell them under which circumstances we are ready to negotiate with them. But unfortunately, they wanted to get a lot of things. They wanted to change the government of Iran; they couldn't. They wanted to divide Iran into five countries, but they couldn't. They wanted the oil of Iran, but they couldn't. For 40 days, they continued the war, and then they understood they could not do anything. And then they suggested a ceasefire. And Iran accepted. But now, they want to get what they couldn't get by war; they want to get it through discussion. And Iran is not ready to give them that.

How sustainable is the Strait of Hormuz disruption strategy, and what costs could Iran face if it continues?
The Strait of Hormuz was open before February 28. For thousands of years, the strait has remained open. And Iran was the one that was spending a lot to provide security to the ships passing through the strait. Iran did not ask for anything from any country for doing that. But after this war, the strait was closed. And due to this, a lot of other countries are affected. Why are the countries that are suffering and are affected by these problems not asking the US and the Zionist regime to stop the war?

Abdul Majid Hakeem Ilahi

Which are these countries?
All the countries.

What were the key outcomes of talks between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar?
Due to the good and strong relationship between Iran and India, Iran allowed a lot of Indian ships to pass through Hormuz. In the beginning, they allowed two Indian ships to pass. And also recently, I heard that they are going to give permission for Indian ships to pass.

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What are your thoughts on India's role in all this?
It's a 5,000-year-old bond between Iran and India, and once we were neighbours. We have the same culture, education, behaviour, and civilisation. And at this moment, the relationship between Iran and India is very good and strong. And the Prime Minister of India called the President of Iran three times. And they had a very successful conversation. And the Minister of Foreign Affairs of India also called the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran. And they, too, had a very successful conversation. And I am sure that the relationship between Iran and India after the war will be better and stronger.

Can Iran's ties with the United Arab Emirates and Gulf neighbours normalise soon, or will issues like US bases remain a hurdle?
Yes. Iran wants to have very strong and good relations with its neighbours. Iran told them in the beginning not to let the US bases in their territories be used for attacking us. Our neighbours provided facilities to the US to use against us. We are not against them having relations and collaboration with any other countries. But we say that this is our right to tell you not to let your territory be used against us by our enemies. Finally, they realised that the US doesn't bring security for them and cannot protect them. Rather, the US imposed on them to buy weapons. President Trump sold weapons worth more than $530 billion to some countries. Once US hegemony is over, they will not obey the country as before.

Does Pakistan's closeness to Washington affect its credibility as an interlocutor?
Iran didn't appoint any country to be a mediator between Iran and the US. But some countries came together, like Egypt, Qatar, Turkey, and Pakistan. They came and they started negotiating with the US. And they wanted to work and play a role as a mediator. And Iran also accepted that.

How do humanitarian gestures from India, especially from regions like Kashmir, shape Iran's perception during this crisis?
Our Supreme Leader (late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei) emphasised that India is different from other nations. Indians are very wise, loyal, kind, honest and always stand with oppressed people. Due to that, when Indians realised that Iran is oppressed, they stood with us. This is because of their dignity, humanity, wisdom, and because they are seekers of justice.

US to withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany

Move executes Trump's threat amid tensions over Iran war

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

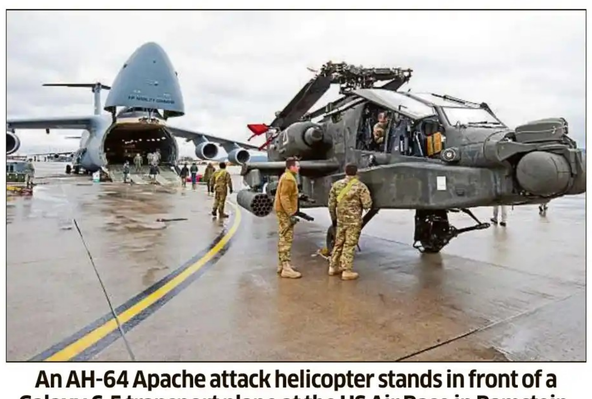
The United States will withdraw about 5,000 troops from Germany in the next six to 12 months, the Pentagon said on Friday, fulfilling President Donald Trump's threat as he clashes with the German leader over the US war with Iran.

Trump had threatened to withdraw some troops from the Nato ally earlier this week after Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the US was being "humiliated" by the Iranian leadership and criticised Washington's lack of strategy in the war.

Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement that the "decision follows a thorough review of the Department's force posture in Europe and is in recognition of theatre requirements and conditions on the ground."

Germany hosts several US military facilities, including the headquarters of its European and Africa Command, Ramstein Air Base, and a medical centre in Landstuhl, where casualties from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were treated. US nuclear missiles are also stationed in the country.

The number of troops leaving Germany would be 14 per cent of the 36,000 American service members stationed there.


An AH-64 Apache attack helicopter stands in front of a Galaxy C-5 transport plane at the US Air Base in Ramstein, Germany. AFP FILE

Germany to focus on shared interests after US decision

Germany's defence minister on Saturday appeared to take in his stride a Pentagon announcement that the United States plans to pull some 5,000 troops out of Germany, saying a drawdown was expected and emphasising the mutual benefit of the longstanding US deployment in Europe, AP/PTI reports from Berlin.

Boris Pistorius said Europe recognised the necessity of doing more to ensure its own security within the US-led Nato alliance, which counts Germany as a key member, and said it is acting on that need. He suggested that America, too, gains from its military deployment on the continent.

"The presence of American soldiers in Europe, and especially in Germany, is in our interest and in the interest of the US," Pistorius told the German news agency dpa.

US warns shipping firms over paying Iran to transit Hormuz

BEIRUT, AP/PTI

The United States is warning shipping companies that they could face sanctions for making payments to Iran to safely pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

The US Office of Foreign Assets Control alert, posted on Friday, adds pressure in the standoff between the US and Iran over control of the strait at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, where about a fifth of the world's trade in oil and natural gas typically passes.

Iran effectively closed the strait by attacking and threatening ships after the US and Israel launched a war on Feb 28. It later began offering some ships safe passage by detouring them through routes closer to its shore, charging fees at times.

That "tollbooth" effort is the focus of the US sanctions warning, which said payment demands could include transfers not only in cash but also "digital assets, offsets, informal swaps, or other in-kind payments", including charitable donations and payments at Iranian embassies.

The US responded to Iran's closure of the strait with a naval blockade of Iranian ports on April 13, preventing Iranian tankers from leaving and depriving Tehran of oil revenue it needs to shore up its ailing economy. The US Central Command has said that 45 commercial ships have been told to turn around since the blockade began.

Meanwhile, imprisoned Nobel Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi remained hospitalised in Zanjan in northwestern Iran after being transferred there from prison late Friday. Her foundation described the condition of the rights lawyer as "very high risk", with fluctuating blood pressure and severe nausea. But medical teams in Zanjan have requested her medical records before performing any treatment, though they have recommended that she be transferred to Tehran for treatment by her own doctors, the foundation said.

However, "the Intelligence (Ministry) is still opposing the transfer of Narges to a hospital in Tehran for angiography", her husband, Taghi Rahmani, said.

"Until the angiography is done, it is not possible to determine what her main illness currently is," Rahmani, who is based in Paris, said in a voice message. Mohammadi's brother, Oslo-based Hamidreza Mohammadi, said in a voice message shared with the AP that doctors have not been able to treat her fluctuating blood pressure.

US court restricts abortion pill access

NEW ORLEANS (US), AP/PTI: A federal appeals court has restricted access to one of the most common means of abortion in the US by blocking the mailing of mifepristone prescriptions.

Friday's unanimous ruling from a three-judge panel of the New Orleans-based 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals requires that the abortion pill be distributed only in person and at clinics, overruling regulations set by the federal Food and Drug Administration.The ruling, which is likely to be appealed to the US Supreme Court, is the biggest jolt to abortion policy in the US since the 2022 Supreme Court ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade and allowed states to enforce abortion bans.

In the ruling, Judge Kyle Duncan, who was appointed by President Donald Trump, agreed with the state of Louisiana's contention that allowing the drug to be mailed there makes moot the state's ban on abortion at all stages of pregnancy.

"Every abortion facilitated by the FDA's action cancels Louisiana's ban on medical abortions and undermines its policy that every unborn child is a human being from the moment of conception and is, therefore, a legal person," the ruling states.

Mifepristone was approved in 2000 as a safe and effective way to end early pregnancies.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Participants sleep during the 2026 Power Nap contest at Han River park in Seoul, South Korea, on Saturday. REUTERS

Low-cost Spirit Airlines goes out of business after 34 years

Low-cost US carrier Spirit Airlines said on Saturday that all of its flights have been cancelled as it started an "orderly wind-down of operations", citing spiking fuel prices in recent weeks as a key factor, AFP reports from Washington.

The troubled carrier, which was looking to emerge from its second bankruptcy in a year, announced it was ceasing operations after a potential White House bailout fell through. Spirit Airlines' parent company, Spirit Aviation Holdings, said in an early Saturday press release that it has "started an orderly wind-down of operations, effective immediately." "All Spirit flights have been cancelled, and Spirit guests should not go to the airport," the company said. Spirit, which launched 34 years ago with its bargain no-frills offering that put pressure on larger airlines, was the ninth-largest US carrier by passenger count as of December 2025, according to the Department of Transportation. The company's webpage displayed a message telling guests that "customer service is no longer available". The airline said it will process refunds for purchased flights. Jet fuel prices have more than doubled since the conflict with Iran began in February, prompting major US airlines to lower their profit forecasts, trim back capacity growth plans, or both.

UK PM wants curbs on Gaza protests

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer warned on Saturday that tougher action was needed against people chanting certain phrases at pro-Palestinian protests, as concerns grew over the safety of British Jews after the stabbings of two Jewish men in London, AP/PTI reports from London.

Starmer said he would always defend the right to protest, but added that there may be instances where some marches protesting the war in Gaza should be banned. He suggested that repeated pro-Palestinian marches have had a "cumulative effect" linked to the rise in antisemitic incidents in the UK. "When you see, when you hear some of those chants — 'globalise the intifada' would be one I would pick out — then clearly there should be tougher action in relation to that," Starmer told the BBC.

Singer Shakira takes part in a rehearsal ahead of her free concert in Rio de Janeiro on Friday. AP/PTI

Russia making gains in Donetsk

Russian troops are inching towards the city of Kostiantynivka in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, trying to establish a foothold close to a heavily defended area, Ukraine's top army official said on Saturday, Reuters reports from Kyiv.

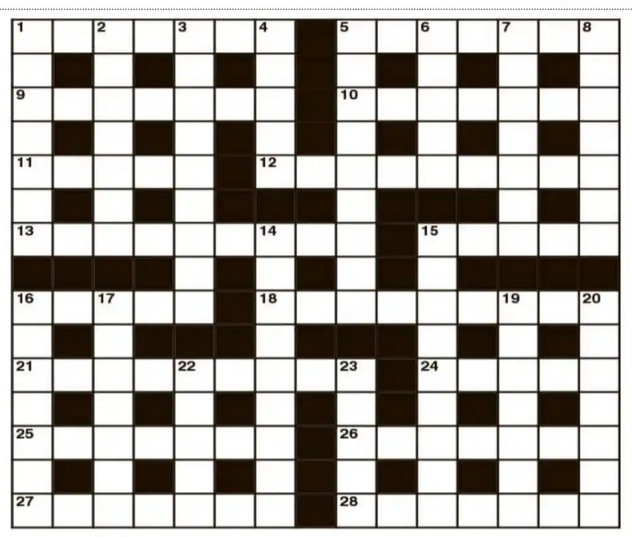
Kostiantynivka, along with other cities, forms a so-called fortress belt in the country's east — an area well fortified by the Ukrainian military. "We are repelling the Russian occupiers' persistent attempts to gain a foothold on the outskirts of Kostiantynivka using infiltration tactics. Counter-sabotage measures are ongoing in the city," Oleksandr Syrskyi, Ukraine's army chief, said on the Telegram app. A Ukrainian battlefield mapping project called DeepState shows Russian troops control an area around only one kilometre from the city's southern outskirts.

Humpback whale 'Timmy' released

A rescue team on Saturday released a humpback whale from a barge in the North Sea after it had been stranded in shallow waters near Germany since March, AP/PTI reports from Berlin.

Nicknamed Timm, the whale was spotted swimming near Germany's Baltic Sea coast on March 3, far from its natural habitat in the Atlantic. The mammal's health deteriorated as it repeatedly stranded in shallow waters near the coastal city of Wismar, and unsuccessful efforts to coax it towards deeper seas were livestreamed across the globe.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2678 ◆



ACROSS
1 Yielded good results (4,3)
5 Seeking to remain detached (7)
9 A French folk dance (7)
10 Summary of facts (5-2)
11 Severe (5)
12 Shakespeare's shrew (9)
13 To gamble (9)
15 Ill-defined in meaning (5)
16 Creator of Robinson Crusoe (5)
18 Communicate intelligibly (3,6)
21 So as to create an impression (3,6)
24 Full of life (5)
25 Heighten (7)
26 Sweet smell (7)
27 Rushing stream (7)
28 Regional form of language (7)

DOWN
1 Mythical winged horse (7)
2 Bill (7)
3 Not at correct pitch (3,2,4)
4 A vagary of nature (5)
5 Falling back (2,7)
6 US composer of marches (5)
7 Temporary accommodation (7)
8 Put back (7)
14 Now (2,7)
15 The other way round (4,5)
16 Turn aside (7)
17 Promote (7)
19 Thrust oneself forward (7)
20 Able to pay debts (7)
22 Practice swordplay (5)
23 Unenthusiastic (5)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4038

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 8, Port-I-on 9, Methought 13, A-gain 14, Mould 15, Rebirth 16, See-page 17, T-Erse 18, Roger 20, Stand 22, Vir-a-go 23, Seance 25, Reflect 27, Eyes-O-re 30, Wra-I-th 31, Angela 32, Dol-Ed 35, Nee-D-s 36, Pitch 37, Reaches 39, Reserve 41, Mapl-E 42, Brake 43, Town crier 44, Knocked.
DOWN: 1, Sol-a-C-e 2, Standard 3, Room service 4, Tender age 5, She-rbet 6, Number-less 7, Char 10, Passes 11, Mustard 12, Charge 19, General 21, Aver-age 24, By fair means 26, Late spring 28, In a tem-per 29, P-erh-aps 30, Win-try 32, Draw-back 33, D-as-hes 34, Appears 38, Heater 40, Shot.

EASY
ACROSS: 8, Celsius 9, Facetious 13, Ankle 14, Rapid 15, Inkling 16, Warlike 17, Cache 18, Ocean 20, Greek 22, Barrow 23, Skiing 25, Cassock 27, Unitary 30, Catnap 31, Bonsai 32, Humid 35, Uncut 36, Foyer 37, Egotist 39, Bathtub 41, Rebut 42, Lupin 43, Blowlamps 44, Formula.
DOWN: 1, Beaker 2, Asterisk 3, Quarterback 4, Bandicoot 5, Decibel 6, Pickpocket 7, Sufi 10, Earwig 11, Spectre 12, Eggnog 19, Epigram 21, Elastic 24, Indigestion 26, Shantytown 28, Polygraph 29, Ascribe 30, Chubby 32, Hoodlums 33, Doting 34, Offbeat 38, Impala 40, Tilt.

SU DO KU X - 3904

				3		8		
		9	1		2			
	6				9	7		
				1			8	
		1						
9	8	4		2			6	
2								
7				4	3		1	
				9	7			

SOLUTION TO 3903

7	3	8	5	9	4	2	1	6
1	6	9	3	7	2	8	5	4
4	5	2	1	6	8	9	7	3
8	1	5	9	4	3	6	2	7
3	7	4	2	8	6	5	9	1
9	2	6	7	5	1	3	4	8
5	9	1	6	3	7	4	8	2
6	4	7	8	2	5	1	3	9
2	8	3	4	1	9	7	6	5

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

TECH-TONIC SHIFT Sabastian Sawe's sub-two-hour marathon run brings focus on innovation in sport equipment

Redefining limits through tech

ADITYA K HALDER/MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The marathon has always been a measure of human endurance pushed to its limits. From the first sub-three-hour run at the 1908 Olympic Games to the long, almost mythical pursuit of the two-hour barrier, progress has been incremental, painstaking and often unforgiving. The sport also went through evolution, anchored by standardisation with the crucial one coming in 2003 when World Athletics (then IAAF) formalised modern rules to ensure uniformity in course measurement, pacing and equipment use.

In this file photo, Rahul Dravid checks Virat Kohli's bat. PTI

That framework is also why legendary distance runner Eliud Kipchoge's iconic sub-two-hour run (1:59:40) in Vienna in 2019 remained an exhibition feat as the Kenyan's extraordinary achievement fell outside official ratification due to controlled conditions like rotating pacemakers, formation running and other technical aids that violated competitive norms.

More than six years later, however, the barrier has finally fallen and well within the rulebook as another Kenyan Sabastian Sawe produced a legitimate sub-two-hour performance at the London Marathon by clocking 1:59:30. It was a landmark moment but one that also reignited debate about the growing influence of technology in sport. And this time, at the centre of that debate were the shoes.

Sawe's ultra-lightweight racing footwear, developed by a leading German manufacturer, adidas, weighed under 100 grams and featured a stiff carbon-fibre plate embedded within a thick foam sole. As per the makers, the design enhances propulsion and energy return, effectively improving running economy over long distances. While question was raised whether such innovations edge into performance enhancement, the shoes comply with World Athletics' "advanced footwear" regulations introduced after 2019. These rules cap sole thickness, restrict the use of multiple plates and require that the shoes be commercially available to ensure that innovation does not outpace accessibility.

"The shoes have grabbed all of our attention, now every long-distance runner wants them," says India's marathon record holder Sawan Barwal. "I'm excited to try them myself in my next race and see how much I can improve, especially with the Asian Games in mind."

Former India player turned Kannada TV pundit Vijay Bharadwaj dwells into R&D that's taking place in improving cricket equipment, including shoes.

"We (Sporting Minds) were among the first to introduce advanced cricket shoes from Japan into India," Bharadwaj points out. "The R&D teams studied Indian playing conditions in detail -- they analysed grass types and soil formation to develop suitable grip, spike configurations, materials and sole design. They tested prototypes at Chinnaswamy Stadium and with real players before finalising the product."

Result: Players can accelerate and change direction much faster not just while running between the wickets but while fielding as well.

Staying with cricket, how can we not discuss the evolution of the once humble willow?

"The bat contributes to 50% of your runs," notes Bharadwaj. "Skill matters, but the bat plays an equally crucial role. You simply cannot score heavily with a poor-quality or unsuitable bat. The weight and how you feel holding a bat in your hand is crucial.

"Earlier, bats required to be seasoned before you could use them in a match. You had to play with them for months before they were ready. Now, technology has advanced so much that you can pick up a bat straight from the store and use it in a match immediately. That's the level of refinement today and the moment you hold it. With such bats, you don't need to overexert yourself. Your technique and body shape remain intact."

Yet, to reduce this technological wave to footwear or bat alone would be simplistic as equipment science has profoundly reshaped performance ceilings across disciplines. Few sports illustrate this better than compound archery.

Once reliant on relatively basic gear, the sport has undergone a transformation driven by material science and precision engineering. Arrows, which were once simple full-carbon shafts, now feature aluminium cores wrapped in varied thickness of carbon layers and has helped improving factors like consistency and flight stability. Even arrow points have evolved from fixed steel tips to tungsten variants and in multiple weights, which has allowed archers to fine-tune balance and subsequently achieve precision.

"Sights have seen the biggest practical improvement," explains decorated compound archer Rajat Chauhan, who has over two decades of experience. "Earlier, it was very difficult to micro-tune them. Now you can adjust directly on the sight -- if your arrow is hitting slightly high, you can bring it back to centre with small changes. There are so many possibilities now because of the equipment."

The overall impact of these advancements is visible in the narrowing margins at the elite level. Till the mid 2015, the highest scores used to be around 714 or 715 out of 720 points available but now the world record is 719. This means, out of 72 arrows, only one arrow fell outside the two inner circles.

"The archers are the same, the mindset is the same, but the latest equipment is giving great support. Technique and focus have always been there, but now the margin of accuracy has become extremely small. Science is supporting us in closing that gap," said Chauhan.

Chauhan's point goes beyond better equipment as it speaks to a sport where uncertainty is being engineered out. And that's not unique to archery as in another precision sport like shooting, the shift has taken a slightly different route. Here, technology is not just about pushing the outer limits of performance but about making performance more repeatable under pressure. This evolution is best understood through how equipment has reduced physical and mechanical interruptions in the sport.

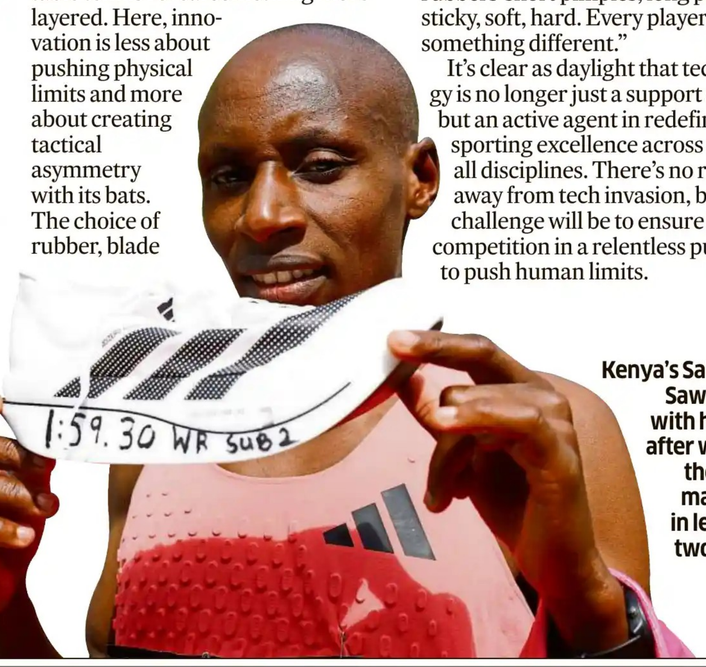
"There has been a sea change in shooting equipment, it's like how a new iPhone comes out every year and the new one is better than previous one," says former India rifle chief coach Suma Shirur. "We started with rifles where you had to manually pump air for every shot-like pumping a cycle tyre. Every shot was an effort: pump, pick up the rifle, shoot, and repeat. Now with compressed air cylinders, that entire process is gone."

If endurance and precision sports show how technology can refine performance, racket sports like table tennis reveal something more layered. Here, innovation is less about pushing physical limits and more about creating tactical asymmetry with its bats. The choice of rubber, blade composition and surface texture can alter spin, speed and trajectory to such an extent that two players are effectively playing different versions of the same game.

This makes equipment not just an aid, but an extension of playing style. A defensive player can slow the game down with disruptive surfaces, while an aggressive one can amplify pace and spin to overwhelm opponents.

"Equipment plays a major role in table tennis, maybe 20 to 30 per cent of overall performance," says Bengaluru-based coach Anshuman Roy. "It's a sport built on speed, and there are hundreds of types of rubbers-short pimples, long pimples, sticky, soft, hard. Every player needs something different."

It's clear as daylight that technology is no longer just a support system but an active agent in redefining sporting excellence across almost all disciplines. There's no running away from tech invasion, but the challenge will be to ensure fair competition in a relentless pursuit to push human limits.



Kenya's Sabastian Sawe poses with his shoe after winning the men's marathon in less than two hours. REUTERS

TECH SMART

- Advanced running shoes with carbon-fibre plates and energy-returning foam are boosting efficiency and pushing marathon limits.
- Cricket shoes are now manufactured using data on grass and soil conditions to improve grip, speed and movement.
- Modern cricket bats are pre-refined with better materials, allowing immediate use and enhancing power with less effort.
- In archery, high-tech arrows and adjustable sights have greatly improved consistency, balance and precision.
- Shooting rifles have evolved from manual air-pump systems to compressed air technology, making performance more stable and repeatable.
- Table tennis racquets now use specialised rubbers and blade designs to manipulate spin, speed and gameplay strategy.

'Concerned with the state of doping in India'

NEW YORK, PTI: The head of the International Testing Agency (ITA), the body that manages anti-doping programme in Olympic Games and other major global events, has expressed concern at the high rate of doping cases in India and athletes getting "advance notice prior to testing" and avoiding furnishing samples if there is doping control.

ITA Director General Benjamin Cohen said in a report that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has passed on the message that if India wants to host the 2036 Games, the country needs to undergo "a lot of governance and structural reforms".

"We're concerned in general with the state of doping in India and we're hearing a lot of things happening on the ground," Cohen was quoted as saying by 'The Athletic', which covers sports for 'The New York Times'.

"We also hear stories of athletes running away when there is a doping control, and we hear of advance notice."

Prokofiev for Ranquelino Cup

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

Prasanna Kumar-trained Prokofiev, to be ridden by Neeraj Rawal, will garner the maximum support in the Ranquelino Cup, the feature event to be run over a distance of 1400 metres on Sunday. The first race starts at 3 pm.

1. The Royal Command Plate (Div II) 1400M: Blue Storm 1, Shock And Awe 2, Versace 3.
2. The Belmont Park Plate (Div II) 1200M: Tiger Bay 1, Night Raider 2, Mutual Trust 3.
3. The Royal Command Plate (Div I) 1400M: Fils De France 1, Kazing 2, Be Sace 3.
4. The Belmont Park Plate (Div I) 1200M: Jade Mountain 1, Splendid Dream 2, Sapporo 3.
5. The Ranquelino Cup 1400M: Prokofiev 1, Rieko 2, Power Of Beauty 3.
6. The Welcome Plate 1200M: Bullet-proof 1, Pearl Star 1, Osaka 3.
7. The Squanderer Plate 1200M: Money Bags 1, Pole Star 2, Flight Of Fancy 3.

Day's Best: Fils De France. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. **Mini Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7. **I treble:** 2, 3, 4. **II treble:** 5, 6, 7.

BADMINTON THOMAS CUP

France assume control

Ayush, Srikanth go down as Indians concede 0-2 lead in the semifinals

HORSENS, PTI

India were left staring at defeat as France surged to a 2-0 lead after Kidambi Srikanth lost in straight games to world No. 10 Alex Lanier in the second singles of the Thomas Cup semifinals here on Saturday.

After Ayush Shetty suffered a heavy loss to world No. 4 Christo Popov in the opening singles, all eyes were on Srikanth to restore parity, but the former world No. 1 went down fighting 16-21, 18-21.

Srikanth began on an even footing, matching his younger opponent at 3-3 in the opening game and mixing his strokes well with tight net play and steep smashes. However, Lanier stepped up the pace to open a lead at the interval.

With rallies kept short, Srikanth struggled with unforced errors and fell behind 9-14. Though he mounted a brief comeback to close the gap to 15-18, a net error halted his charge as Lanier converted his game points.

The second game followed a similar pattern. Srikanth recovered from an early deficit to draw level at 7-7 with a series of attacking winners, but Lanier's strategy of injecting pace and pressing the forecourt forced more errors from the Indian, who slipped to 10-15.

Srikanth attempted another late push, narrowing the margin to 15-16, but errors crept in during the closing exchanges. Lanier earned two match points after winning a flat rally and sealed the contest when Srikanth found the net.

Earlier, Ayush, drafted into the opening singles with Lakshya Sen nursing a swollen right elbow, went down 11-21, 9-21 in 39 minutes.

India, however, are assured of a medal after reaching the semifinals. The country had won the title in 2022, besides claiming bronze medals in 1952, 1955 and 1979.

India's Ayush Shetty suffered a loss to France's Christo Popov in the semifinals of the Thomas Cup at Horsens in Denmark on Saturday. PTI FILE PHOTO

Pavandeep double ton studs BSC's 471-run win

BENGALURU, DHNS

LOCAL CRICKET

Pavandeep R Bharadadakane notched up a blistering 242 (101 balls, 4x44) and Viaan Joshi registered a breezy 141 (79b, 4x20, 3x6) as Bangalore Sports Club posted a dominating 471-run victory over Cavaliers Cricket Club in the KSCA U-16 Inter-club tournament here.

After posting a mind-numbing 545 all out in 49.3 overs, Bangalore SC skittled Cavaliers CC for a paltry 74 in 35.4 overs with Saurjyesh Das claiming 4/7.

Brief scores: Bangalore Sports Club: 545 all out in 49.3 overs (Viaan Joshi 141, Pavandeep R Bharadakane 242, Vineet Pravin Patil 44, Saurjyesh Das 63; Nishal Aradhya CA 2-72, Abhay Chavan 3-114, Neil C Bhandary 2-89) bt Cavaliers Cricket Club: 74 all out in 35.4 overs (Saurjyesh Das 4-7).
Bangalore Occasionals: 110 all out in 43.3 overs (Aarav Bajaj 2-20, Naksh CM 2-14, SM Bhavith 2-12) lt to Bangalore United Cricket Club (1): 111/3 in 12 overs (Lakshmi Narayan M 34, SM Bhavith 31; Rithvikh Krishna 2-25).
RV Engineering College: 104 all out in 34 overs (P Lithik Reddy 38 n.o.; Raghav Sanjay Vadher 3-27, Jeevan 2-22, Kushal KA 2-11, M Neeraj 2-11) lt to Rajajinagar Cricketers: 108/2 in 13.4 overs (Prabhav Pydah 29 n.o., Debraj Nandi 46, Tupakula Sai Vikranth 2-16).
Neptune Cricket Club: 226 all out in 42.3 overs (Srinath Seshadri 49, Srijesh Parthiban 104, Bhavin Joe Francis 2-42, Mayank Sharma 2-28, Cheran Tej Raju C 5-31) lt to Jawahar Sports Club (1): 228/9 in 49.5 overs (Cheran Tej Raju C 118 n.o.,Ravi Kisan Yadav 2-45, Sandeep Kumar Yadav B 4-23).
Hammonds Cricket Club: 235/8 in 50 overs (Vasisht V Shetty 33, Aryaman Goel 49, Preetham HG 33, Lalithesh R 43 n.o.; Soumith Kongara 2-28, Md Aasiph 2-42) lt to Jayanagar United Cricketers: 239/7 in 41.2 overs (Shoubhit Shreyan Pani 48, Sudarshan Thapa 31, Ayan Mukherjee 25, Samarth Gautam Rayabagi 60 n.o.; Ansh Anand 3-59, S Miteesh 2-36).
Minerva Cricket Club: 177 all out in 40.2 overs (Aarav Mishra S 46, Soumyarup Mukherjee 55, Samrat Aditya P 2-28, Niyanta Santosh Kulkarni 3-34) lt to Swastic Union Cricket Club (1): 178/6 in 40.4 overs (Saachin Suresh Araganji 59 n.o., Aadyot Pandey 34, Krishang Gupta 2-40, Ankit Shaw 2-45).
The Bangalore Cricketers: 272 all out in 37.2 overs (Dherein V 80, Vedanth K 29, Ishaanth Y 35, Gagan Gowda P 5-58, Rohith R 2-35) bt Merchants Cricket Club (1) : 65 all out in 28.4 overs (Karthik J 5-18, Ayup Singh Kunwar 2-12, Aryaman Srivastava 3-12).
Bharath Cricket Club (U-16): 102 all out in 37.4 overs (Samrudh Girish 2-31, Yashkumar Nishad 6-21) lt to Cambridge Cricket Club: 104 for no loss in 21.1 overs (Sathwik Rao V 47 n.o., Daiwik M 46 n.o.).
South End Sports Club: 315/4 in 50 overs (Yelavalli Umar Ahil 55, Vihaan P 64, Arya Naveen 38, S Dhavan Srijan 54, Harshith Raja 40 n.o., Jagrit Karani 28 n.o.) bt Young Cricketers (1): 282 all out in 48 overs (Vyom Sai Ranjith 25, Karan Kumar M 46, Namik Mannan 36, Saideep S 59, Nehan Aman Shariff 2-26, Mohammed Owais Sayed 2-22, Harshith Raja 2-39).
Vultures Cricket Club: 297 all out in 47.1 overs (Anirudh M Bangera 128, Aaryan Nagesh 42, Manish Bahuguna 52, Arjun Balu 29 n.o.; Atharva Kumar Jaiswal 2-78, Dikshan Bhandarkar 3-35, Rajdeep Banerjee 2-54) bt Johnson Cricket Club: 91 all out in 21 overs (Divyam Kumawat 25, Arjun Balu 2-38, Aarav Singh 5-22, Swayam Shabadi 2-22).

Bangalore Occasionals move into semis

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kranthi Kumar's four-for (4/13) and Faizan Khan's 48 helped Bangalore Occasionals secure a narrow five-run victory over Sir Syed Cricketers in the quarterfinal of the KSCA G Kasturirangan Memorial Trophy here.

Batting first, Bangalore Occasionals were bowled out for 141 in 19.3 overs with Faizan ending as the top-scorer for his team. Vidwath Kaverappa led Sir Syed Cricketers' bowling and claimed 3/21 along the way.

LOCAL CRICKET

Later, Kranthi kept things tight with the ball that made the going tough for the batters chasing a trickt target. In the end, despite Nikin Jose's unbeaten 48 and MS Bhandage's handy 31-run contribution, Sir Syed Cricketers could only reach 136 for six in 20 overs to fall short by a whisker.

Elsewhere, Vultures Cricket Club, Swastic Union Cricket Club (1) and Vijaya Cricket Club posted commanding wins in the other last-eight encounters to complete the semifinal line-up.

Brief scores: Bangalore Occasionals: 141 all out in 19.3 overs (Faizan Khan 48; Vidwath Kaverappa 3-21, Monish Reddy 2-23, Kumar LR 2-34, MS Bhandage 2-29) bt Sir Syed Cricketers: 136/6 in 20 overs (Nikin Jose SJ 48 n.o., MS Bhandage 31; Dushyanth Venkat 2-25, Kranthi Kumar 4-13).
Vultures CC: 198/5 in 20 overs (Nischal D 34, Karthikeya KP 55, Kruthik Krishna 33 n.o.; Arbind Kumar Rai 2-31, Goutham Mishra 2-39) bt Coles CC: 141 all out in 15.4 overs (Chethana LR 34, Mayank Agarawal 40, Aditya Goyal 28; Santokh Singh 3-28, Adithya Nair 3-6, Karthikeya KP 2-17).
Jawans CC: 162/6 in 20 overs (Harshil 36, Dheeraj J Gowda 67, Arsalaan M 26; Nischith N Rao 2-33) lt to Swastic Union CC (1): 166/4 in 16.2 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 26, Nitish Arya 59, Rakshith S 48 n.o.; Keshav Manjunath 3-25).
Century Cricketers: 160/9 in 20.overs (Karthik CA 25, Gagan Rao S 30; Yashovardhan Parantap 3-21, Virender 2-43, Samit Dravid 3-33) lt to Vijaya CC: 164/6 in 19.3 overs (Aadharsh SJ 53, Dhruv Krishnan 30, Dhruv P 32; Karthik CA 2-28, Madhav P Bajaj 3-20).

Mallorca post crucial win in relegation battle

GIRONA (SPAIN), AP: A first-half goal from Samu Costa was enough to give Mallorca a 1-0 win at Girona and further tighten the already wicked relegation fight in La Liga.

Mallorca's first away win on Friday night since October lifted it above Girona on goal difference into 15th place in the 20-team table. Both clubs were four points clear of the relegation zone.

Only six points separate Rayo Vallecano in 11th with second-from-bottom Levante.

Mallorca were on top for much of the opening 45 minutes and they got their reward seconds before half-time.

Costa was unmarked in the box and he stole in to head home Johan Mojica's lofted cross from the left.

Girona pushed harder in the second half but the woodwork and goalkeeper Leo Roman saved Mallorca. Veteran striker Cristhian Stuani acknowledged the defeat was a hard one to take.

"It's getting more difficult," Stuani said. We have to grit our teeth and give it everything."

Result: Girona: 0 lt to Mallorca: 1 (Samu Costa)

Leeds move closer to safety

LONDON, AFP

Leeds all but secured their place in the Premier League next season with a 3-1 win over already-relegated Burnley on Friday.

Goals from Anton Stach, Noah Okafor and Dominic Calvert-Lewin took Daniel Farke's side nine points clear of the relegation zone with just four games remaining for those below them.

Calvert-Lewin

Leeds failed to reach their first FA Cup final since 1973 in a 1-0 defeat to Chelsea at Wembley last weekend. But they are now up to 14th in an impressive first season back in the top flight to, along with Sunderland, buck the trend of promoted sides falling straight back to the second tier.

Burnley were only pipped to the Championship title by Leeds on goal difference last season.

Results: Leeds: 3 (Starch 8th, Okafor 52nd, Calvert-Lewin 56th) bt Burnley: 1 (Tchaouna 71st); Newcastle: 3 (Osula 12th, Burn 24th, Barnes 90th+5) bt Brighton: 1 (Hinshelwood 61th); Brentford: 3 (Mavropanos 15th-og, Thiago 54th pen, Damsgaard 82th) bt West Ham: 0; Wolves: 1 (Bueno 54th) bt Sunderland: 1 (Mukiele 17th).

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

> I don't think I need to answer any critics or anyone talking about it (vaping). But at the end of the day, my job is to get two points. So, my score and my innings don't really matter if we lose the game.
>
> **RIYAN PARAG, RR SKIPPER**

DC's Kyle Jamieson (left) has been handed one demerit point for giving a fiery send-off to RR's Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

Jamieson warned for Sooryavanshi send off

JAIPUR, PTI: Delhi Capitals pacer Kyle Jamieson has been handed one demerit point for giving a fiery send-off to Rajasthan Royals teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi during their Indian Premier League match here.

"Kyle Jamieson has accumulated one Demerit Point and received a warning for breaching Level 1 of the IPL's Code of Conduct for Players and Team Officials during Match No. 43 against Rajasthan Royals (RR) at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur," an IPL statement read.

The Kiwi pacer was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from another player in the match.'

The incident occurred in the second over of the first innings, when, after dismissing the 15-year-old Sooryavanshi, Jamieson was found to be close to him in an aggressive manner, which could have provoked an aggressive reaction from the batter.

Jamieson admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction imposed by the Match Referee.

Saikia tells teams to adhere to decorum

MUMBAI, PTI: BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia on Saturday maintained that the players and officials should adhere to the stipulated decorum to keep up the image of Indian Premier League, and said the governing body is exploring further stringent measures to "rein in" the violating parties.

Saikia's comments came close on the heels of Rajasthan Royals' skipper Riyan Parag and team manager Romi Bhinder getting fined for two separate incidents during the ongoing IPL.

"In the press release we have very clearly said that we are exploring some other options on how to rein in the teams which are violating the norms," Saikia told the reporters at the BCCI headquarters. "We will be taking some action and we are looking at various terms and conditions and protocols."

Clinical CSK stay in the hunt

Mumbai Indians all but out of playoffs race after seventh loss

CHENNAI, PTI

Chennai Super Kings produced a thoroughly professional display to outclass Mumbai Indians by eight wickets in a critical Indian Premier League match and significantly boost their playoff prospects here on Saturday.

Afghanistan left-arm spinner Noor Ahmad led a disciplined bowling effort to help CSK restrict a lacklustre Mumbai Indians to 159 for seven.

Noor returned excellent figures of 2/26 in four overs while Anshul Kamboj grabbed 3/32, even as Naman Dhir top-scored for MI with 57 off 37 balls in an insipid display by the visitors after winning the toss.

Captain Hardik Pandya consumed 23 balls for his 18, reflecting MI's struggles.

Pandya's counterpart Ruturaj Gaikwad then led by example with an unbeaten 48-ball 67 and he was well supported by Kartik Sharma (54 not out off 40 balls) and Urvil Patel (24 off 12 balls).

Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad scored an unbeaten 67 to help Chennai Super Kings beat Mumbai Indians by eight wickets at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Saturday. PTI

In the chase, CSK's man in form Sanju Samson was quick off the blocks with a couple of boundaries but Jasprit Bumrah cut short his stay with a beautiful outswinger that took the outside edge and Ryan Rickelton dived to right his to grab the ball.

Samson, who punched Bumrah through covers in the previous delivery, paid the price for his lack of foot movement.

Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad smashed Trent Boult for a six over deep square-leg as 17 runs came off the third over.

Krish Bhagat leaked 18 runs with Urvil Patel hitting him for two sixes and a four before Ruturaj got a maximum against AM Ghazanfar.

Ghazanfar, though, dismissed Patel as the batter played the ball on to his stumps.

Gaikwad and Sharma then took CSK home.

Earlier, Mukesh Choudhary started the proceedings for CSK on an excellent note, conceding just one run in the opening over and then IPL debutant Ramakrishna made immediate impact with a stunning catch to send back Will Jacks in the second over bowled by Anshul Kamboz.

Off a length ball outside off, Jacks stepped out and tried to hoick but failed to connect as Ramakrishna ran in from deep backward point and dived to complete the catch, leaving the crowd at MA Chidambaram Stadium delighted.

With their campaigns hanging by a thread following a string of disappointing outings, there was a lot riding on this contest for both MI and CSK, and the latter delivered when it mattered. MI, though, are still not out mathematically.

MI's first boundary was unconvincing as the ball flew off Naman Dhir's bat down to deep fine leg after the batter tried to flick it.

SCORE BOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS: Will Jacks c Ghosh b Kamboj 1, Ryan Rickelton c Patel b Noor 37, Naman Dhir c Sarfaraz b Overton 57, Suryakumar Yadav c Brevis b Ghosh 21, Tilak Varma c Gaikwad b Noor 5, Hardik Pandya c Brevis b Kamboj 18, Robin Minz b Kamboj 5, Krish Bhagat (not out) 3, Trent Boult (not out) 7. Extras (B-2, LB-2, W- 1) 5. **TOTAL (for 7 wkts, 20 overs) 159.**

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-59, 3-99, 4-109, 5-134, 6-139, 7-151.

Bowling: Mukesh Choudhary 3-0-25-0, Anshul Kamboj 4-0-32-3, Prashant Veer 2-0-25-0, Noor Ahmad 4-0-26-2, Ramakrishna Ghosh 3-0-24-1, Jamie Overton 4-0-23-1.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: Sanju Samson c Rickelton b Bumrah 11, Ruturaj Gaikwad (not out) 67, Urvil Patel b Ghazanfar 24, Kartik Sharma (not out) 54. Extras (W-4) 4. **TOTAL (for 2 wkts. 18.1 overs) 160.**

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-62.

Bowling: Trent Boult 3.1-0-37-0, Jasprit Bumrah 3-0-20-1, Krish Bhagat 2-0-22-0, AM Ghazanfar 4-0-40-1, Raghu Sharma 4-0-24-0, Hardik Pandya 2-0-17-0.

Result: CSK won by 8 wickets.

PoM: Ruturaj Gaikwad.

KKR aim to snap SRH's winning run

Cummins' men bank on top-order batting might

HYDERABAD, PTI

A power-packed batting unit at their disposal, Sunrisers Hyderabad will look to continue their winning streak and climb up the ladder when they take on a resurgent Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL here on Sunday.

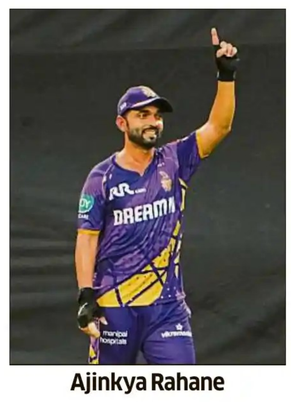
SRH are on a five-match winning streak and are placed third in the IPL standings with 12 points from nine matches which includes six wins.

KKR, on the other hand, have been struggling all season under Ajinkya Rahane's captaincy but have won their last two games. They are placed eighth in the 10-team event.

SRH boast of a strong batting line-up in tournament's second and third highest run-scorers in Abhishek Sharma and Heinrich Klaasen.

In Ishan Kishan, SRH has an explosive batter who can change the complexion of the match in any given day and he has proved that this season.

Australian opener Travis Head also got back among runs with 76 against Mumbai Indians in SRH's last match while chasing an imposing 243 for 5 with six wickets in hand in 18.4 overs.



Ajinkya Rahane

LIVE 3:30 PM

Nitish Kumar Reddy and Salil Arora have also risen to the occasion with the bat for SRH when called for.

Considering the firepower of SRH's batting, KKR's bowling department will have to raise their standards by leaps and bounds to contain their rivals.

On the bowling front, SRH have been boosted by the return of their skipper Pat Cummins. Besides Cummins, Praful Hinge, Eshan Malinga, Reddy and Sakib Hussain too have been playing their part.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Punjab Kings	8	6	1	1	13	1.043
Royal Challengers	9	6	3	0	12	1.420
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	6	3	0	12	0.832
Rajasthan Royals	10	6	4	0	12	0.510
Gujarat Titans	9	5	4	0	10	-0.192
Chennai Super Kings	9	4	5	0	8	0.005
Delhi Capitals	9	4	5	0	8	-0.895
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	2	5	1	5	-0.751
Mumbai Indians	9	2	7	0	4	-0.803
Lucknow Super Giants	8	2	6	0	4	-1.106

Pacer Ferguson urges bowlers to stay aggressive on flat decks

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

A combination of flat surfaces, shorter boundaries, improved bat qualities, Impact Sub rule and the trigger-happy batters have disrupted the balance between bat and ball like never before in the Indian Premier League.

In a tournament where 220-run totals have become a bare minimum rather than a safe score, and with targets over 260 being chased down with ease, Punjab Kings' pacer Lockie Ferguson highlighted the importance of staying aggressive as a bowler rather than trying to contain runs.

"IPL is just sort of a new competition on its own in the style of cricket that's played. It is obviously high-scoring and you are going to get hit. That's part of being a bowler," Ferguson said during a media interaction.

"However, it is how do you bounce back and execute your plan that matters. As long as the bowlers are being aggressive and are trying to find ways to get batters out, then they are going to be in a good mindset."

Lockie Ferguson. PBKS

Punjab Kings have been among the most consistent teams this season, winning six out of their eight games, including a washout against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Their bowling unit, however, has conceded 200-plus totals in five games but Ferguson downplayed any concerns of the same happening in a knockout.

"Execution is the key. We're trying to execute our plans. Some days are just not so good. We are just trying to make a few adjustments and trying to tighten up in areas. I am sure the boys will come good."

"We know how, within the IPL, the small margins can look a lot bigger on TV. But we are just trying to tighten up on areas, try to double down on our planning."

While some batters like pace on the ball, Ferguson, who can consistenty hit speeds north of 145 kph, called it an X-factor.

"Extra pace comes with its benefits. Sometimes the faster you bowl, the faster it goes to the rope. But it's an X-factor."

Ferguson, who joined the Punjab camp for the second half of the tournament, stressed on the challenges of coming into a competition mid-way, with teams already familiar with their first XIs.

"Obviously not that easy coming straight from training at home into the IPL. It's never easy coming into a tournament halfway."

"I've only been here a week. I'm making my own adjustments, learning what's been working here and trying to learn from the other boys what's been working throughout the comp."

Delhi Capitals' Kyle Jamieson was handed one demerit point for his send-off to 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, and his aggressive celebration paved way for debates on social media.

Ferguson, however, said that the celebration was an understandable one.

"Kyle (Jamieson) is a good mate. He was pretty fired up, which is pretty understandable. It is not easy to get wickets in this part of the world and that was a big one. So it's part of the game."

Table-toppers Punjab Kings look to flip the slip against Gujarat Titans

AHMEDABAD, PTI

Their perfect run finally halted, Punjab Kings will look to ensure the slip does not turn into a slide when they take on Gujarat Titans, who will be targeting a third straight win, in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

The Kings were handed a bitter first defeat of the season by Rajasthan Royals earlier this week.

Although Punjab Kings continue to lead the standings with 13 points from eight games, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals are just a point behind them.

For a side that had set the early pace with six wins on the trot, the loss has brought a few concerns, especially with the ball.

Punjab's bowling has not quite matched the consistency of their batting. In fact, their strong batting displays have often masked the shortcomings of the bowling unit.

Even in victories, Punjab's bowlers have allowed opposition teams to score freely at stages, and the recent loss once again exposed those issues.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer will seek to consolidate PBKS' position at the top. PTI

LIVE 7:30 PM

Their inability to close out innings has put added pressure on the batters, who have often had to chase bigger targets or set above-par totals.

With the tournament entering a more competitive phase, Punjab will need sharper execution and clearer plans, particularly against a Gujarat top order that thrives on momentum.

Their fielding has also been a concern with plenty of dropped catches and misfields.

The batting, however, remains Punjab's biggest strength. Openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh have provided solid starts, while Cooper Connolly has also been among the runs. The middle order, led by skipper Shreyas Iyer, has shown enough depth to push totals or finish chases.

Gujarat Titans, meanwhile, come into this match on a two-game winning streak, though their campaign has largely been stop-start.

They have struggled to string together consistent performances, but the recent wins suggest they may be settling into a rhythm.

With back-to-back wins, first over Chennai Super Kings and then RCB, the Titans are fifth on the table with 10 points.

40 boxers left out of SAI sanction letter

NEW DELHI, PTI: As many as 40 boxers face uncertainty after being omitted from the sanction letter issued by the Sports Authority of India for the national camp, casting doubt on their participation in the selection assessment process for this year's Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

According to the selection policy of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), the top two finishers across 20 weight categories -- 10 each in men's and women's sections -- at the Chief of Army Staff Cup (COAS), held from March 30 to April 5, were to be included in the national camp that was scheduled to begin on April 25.

The policy, released in December last year, states that these 40 boxers would be eligible for the assessment trials.

Yastika, uncapped Nandini in India women's T20 World Cup squad

MUMBAI, PTI

India on Saturday drafted in Bharti Fulmali, wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia and uncapped Nandini Sharma in the 15-player squad for the upcoming three-match T20I tour of England followed by the Women's T20 World Cup, starting on June 12.

While specialist batters Pratika Rawal and Harleen Deol were excluded, all-rounder Amanjot Kaur and seamer Kashvee Gautam missed out on selection owing to injuries.

Harmanpreet Kaur will lead the Indian side with Smriti Mandhana being her deputy.

Pratika, however, has been named in the squad for the one-off Test against England to be played at the Lord's.

Yastika Bhatia

Vrinda, Niki in A squad

Karnataka batter Vrinda Dinesh was named the vice-captain of the India A squad for the three T20 games against England A to be played on June 20, 23 and 25 while her state-mate Niki Prasad found a place in the India A squad for the three One-dayers against England A scheduled to be held on June 28, July 1 and 4.

INDIA'S T20 WC GROUP 1 FIXTURES

- **June 14:** vs Pakistan (Birmingham)
- **June 17:** vs Netherlands (Leeds)
- **June 21:** vs South Africa (Manchester)
- **June 25:** vs Bangladesh (Manchester)
- **June 28:** vs Australia (Lord's Cricket Ground)

Squad for T20Is & T20 WC: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Shafali, Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Bharti Fulmali, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wk), Sree Charani, Yastika Bhatia (2nd wk), Nandini Sharma, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Thakur, Kranti Gaud, Shreyanka Patil, Radha Yadav.

Squad for one-off Test: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodriges, Pratika Rawal, Richa Ghosh, Sree Charani, Yastika Bhatia, Nandini Sharma, Harleen Deol, Renuka Singh, Kranti Gaud, Sayali Satghare, Sneh Rana.

Kostyuk bags first WTA 1000 title

MADRID, AFP

Marta Kostyuk defeated Mirra Andreeva 6-3, 7-5 to win the Madrid Open for the first time on Saturday.

It was world No. 23 Kostyuk's first trophy at WTA 1000 level and her second title of the season.

She became only the second player outside of the top 20 to win the Madrid Open, in her third final of an impressive 2026 thus far.

"It feels unbelievable to stand here right now," said Kostyuk, holding the trophy.

"It took me many years to reach this point and the one word I think about right now is consistency -- showing up every day no matter how hard it is, no matter how much you love or hate what you do.

"I've been doing that really well (over) the past years I think, so I'm very proud of myself and my team."

Kostyuk won when she met Andreeva in Brisbane earlier this year in their only prior meeting, and both have since enjoyed stellar starts to the clay-court swing. The Ukrainian secured the first break to take a 4-2 lead in the opening set, with world number eight Andreeva struggling to handle her opponent's superior power.

The 23-year-old Rouen Open winner spurned her first set point with a double fault but captured the second when Andreeva went long.

The Russian, who became favourite to win the tournament after Aryna Sabalenka was eliminated, made too many mistakes in the first set and Kostyuk was only too happy to take advantage of them.

Playing in her first WTA 1000 final, Kostyuk broke in the first game of the second set with Andreeva volleying into the net.

However, the 19-year-old broke back with a fizzing return down the line to tie at 1-1.

The players exchanged breaks again in the fourth and fifth games, before Kostyuk showed great resilience to save two set points and hold for 5-5.

Andreeva double faulted to give her opponent a 6-5 lead and the chance to serve for the title.

Dhamne enters maiden ATP Challenger final

India's upcoming player Manas Dhamne (in pic) displayed some solid game to knock out sixth-seeded Antoine Ghibaudo of France and advance to the final of the ATP Challenger in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Saturday, reports DHNS.

The 18-year-old from Maharashtra, who trains in Italy, scored a 6-4, 6-3 win over Ghibaudo in the semifinal which lasted one hour 21 minutes.

With this win, Dhamne entered his maiden ATP Challenger final which is also the first by an Indian in the season so far. The teen -- currently ranked 444 in the world -- irrespective of his result in the title clash on Sunday, is set to break into the top-400 when the revised world rankings list gets released next week.

The southpaw will face fellow unseeded player Buvaysar Gadamauri of Belgium in the final.

Kuldeep eclipses Dev for new record

BENGALURU, DHNS

Madhya Pradesh's Kuldeep Kumar eclipsed event favourite and state-mate Dev Meena for new pole vault national record of 5.41m at the inaugural Indian Indoor Open combined events & pole vault competition in Bhubaneswar on Saturday.

The 21-year-old Prayagrajborn athlete surpassed Dev's record of 5.40m, which came at the Taiwan Sun Moon Lake International Pole Vault Championships last March. Interestingly, Kuldeep's previous best of 5.25m came in Bengaluru a week before that when the duo, coached by Ghanshyam Yadav, competed at the Indian Open Jumps in Kengeri.

"I was looking to break the national record since I did 5.25m in Bengaluru," Kuldeep told *DH* from Bhubaneswar. "Once I cleared 5.35m comfortably today, I knew the record is within my reach. I went for 5.46m too but missed it by a bit. That makes me confident that I will reset the national record again later this year."

The 20-year-old Dev, meanwhile, finished third with an attempt of 5.20m while second spot went to Tamil Nadu's Reegan (5.20), who made the fewest attempts to clear the height.

Result: Men: Pole vault: Kuldeep Kumar (MP) 5.41m, 1; Reegan (TN) 5.20,2; Dev Meena (MP) 5.20, 3.
U-20: Kavinraj (TN) 4.90, 1; R Vishal (TN) 4.70, 2; Saurabh Yadav (UP) 4.20, 3.

Tough day for Indian quartets

All the five Indian quartets failed to make it to the respective final rounds and thus missed out on the 2027 World Championships berths on the opening day of the World Athletics Relays, reports PTI from Botswana.

They will still compete on the second day of the event on Sunday in an additional round for four slots for the 2027 World Athletics Championships.

India's first women's team captain Shantha Rangaswamy was honoured by friends and former women cricketers for her contributions to women's cricket at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday.
DH PHOTO/ KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

FORMULA 1 INTERVIEW

Button bats for Indian GP

2009 champion wants Buddh circuit back on F1 calendar

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

There has been a sincere effort made by the Union Sports Ministry in recent times to bring Formula 1 back to India as top-tier open-wheel racing is looking to end a long hiatus.

The Buddh International Circuit, India's only FIA Grade 1 track since 2011, is once again billed to host the Indian Grand Prix that ended after just three editions. However, the return is still up in the air as F1 organisers have reportedly hinted that any inclusion may not be possible before 2028.

Fans, drivers and experts alike have enjoyed the fact that the Indian GP is back in the news, and it's no different for 2009 F1 champion Jenson Button who had strong outings at the 'Smoggy Grand Prix' with podium finishes in all three editions, including a second-place finish at the inaugural GP. Excerpts from an interaction.

Efforts are currently on to bring F1 back to India, what are your thoughts on the development and how do you recall your time at the BIC?
I mean I think my best result I never won in India (laughs). I think I finished second in one of the years. The track itself that I drove on was awesome. It was fast. It was a real shame when it was cancelled because I really enjoyed it. It was one of the really interesting new tracks on the calendar and it was the first time I ever travelled to India as well. So, it was again a life experience; to experience true Indian food was amazing, exceptional.

How do you view the direction of Formula 1's new 2026 power unit regulations, especially the shift to a 50-50 hybrid split, and do you think these changes strike the right balance between pushing technological boundaries and preserving the raw excitement for fans?
We all dream of V10 engines because that's what I was racing and started my career and I love the sound of them. But technology moves on and these cars are so efficient now in terms of how much fuel they use and they're using sustainable fuel. They're always going to want to push back the boundaries and to keep manufacturers interested in Formula 1. I think with this new regulation, it needs tweaks and that's what they've done. They've listened to all the stakeholders and that's key to staying on top of it.

Jenson Button recalls his fond memories of racing in India and enjoying the food and culture.

The new regulations have certainly suited Mercedes well as they have been way ahead of the pack but it's nice to see a 19-year-old Kimi Antonelli presenting his case as the youngest champion ever with some luck on his side while competing with team-mate George Russell. How you look at that battle in Miami?
He's (Kimi) still so young in the sport. He was there to pick up the pieces and he got the job done. I think here in Miami, it's interesting because Kimi was really fast here last year (fastest in sprint qualifying).

For George, he has been very unlucky on a couple of occasions. In qualifying in Shanghai he had an issue so only got out for one lap right at the end and then in Japan, he obviously got hurt by the safety car. There was a good chance he was going to fight for victory or at least second in that race in front of his team-mate. But he's a very confident individual so I'm sure he believes in himself that he can fight for it.

Catch all the F1 action Live on FanCode, the official broadcaster.

Norris sprints upgraded McLaren to pole position at Miami GP

MIAMI, AFP: World champion Lando Norris ended Mercedes' early-season supremacy by steering his upgraded McLaren to pole position on Friday for Saturday's sprint race at the Miami Grand Prix.

The 26-year-old Briton outpaced championship-leading Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli, in his Mercedes, by 0.222 seconds with McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri third, adrift by a further 0.239 seconds.

The two McLarens, equipped with a successful upgrade package during F1's five-week hiatus due to the conflict in the Middle East, shone in the Florida heat to finish ahead of their main rivals. "It was a perfect result and a nice way to reward the team," said Norris.

Lando Norris

Will be 'tough' on athletes seeking nationality switch: Coe

GABORONE (BOTSWANA), AFP: World Athletics president Sebastian Coe has told AFP he will remain "tough" on the issue of athletes switching nationality after his federation blocked a bid by top Jamaicans and Kenyans to move to Turkey.

The 2024 Olympic men's discus champion Roje Stona from Jamaica, and a quintet of Kenyans including former women's marathon world record-holder Brigid Kosgei, were among the 11 targeted by lucrative offers from Turkey.

"The concept is very simple, there should be a very clear understanding and philosophy that the country an athlete starts their career in is the country that they finish their career in," Coe said in an interview on Friday ahead of the World Athletics Relays event in Botswana.

Sebastian Coe

"And for global championships to have meaning and to have understanding, people need to witness championships where you have national-based competitions," he added.

Coe said a World Athletics panel examined every request to switch nationality and he accepted in some cases there would be circumstances in which it was acceptable, such as marriage or "political intolerance".

But he said Turkey's bid to recruit elite athletes from other countries by offering them financial packages in a bid to boost its medal count at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics was the kind of move that would always be rejected."

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I, **ADITYA RAO,** residing at #624/13A, 3rd Cross, 3rd Main, 3rd Phase,Ittamadu Layout, Bengaluru- 560085, have changed my name to **RAO CHAKRADHAR** vide affidavit dated 09-03-2026 sworn before notary Sivakumara M.N, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as **RAO CHAKRADHAR** only.

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I, **K.Divya Balan Robert,** R/at # 129, ITC Colony, 6th Cross, Cox Town, Frazer Town, Bengaluru - 560005, have changed my minor daughter's name from **Antonia Reneta Robert** to **ANTONIA RENETA R,** vide affidavit dt: 30.04.2026 before notary Prasad Shetty K B, Bengaluru. Henceforth, she shall be called as **ANTONIA RENETA R** only.

I, TANISH Residing at No.8/5, Ranga Rao Road, Basavangudi, Bangalore -560004 have changed my name to TANISH KUMAR S Vide affidavit dated 30-04-2026 Before Notary Mamatha.N.K. Bangalore.

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Can India translate growth into global influence?

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'There's flies in the kitchen, I can hear 'em there buzzin'/ And I ain't done nothin' since I woke up today'. – John Prine, 'Angel from Montgomery'

It was just the Pahalgam anniversary. One year since April 22, 2025, when 26 innocent people were killed in a valley that has seen too much blood. Dan Qayyum's recent essay in *The Pakistan Playbook*, marking that grim milestone, is quite engaging – especially against the background of Islamabad's new efforts at brokering peace and, diplomatically speaking, punching well above its weight. Still, Qayyum's is a cynical and one-sided piece.

We know the grim details of April 22. Qayyum's assessments are acerbic. He dismisses the attribution of the attack to Pakistan-backed elements, Operation Sindoor, and the accompanying political narrative as little more than domestic theatre. The victims get reduced to props in an ongoing performance. Most provocatively, Qayyum asserts that the world sees India not as a geopolitical power but merely as a large market. He states, "It is a commercial reality that [India's] leadership has spent a decade failing to convert into anything else."

Let's pause on this claim. Such sweeping reductionism ignores India's substantial strategic advances. New Delhi has moved well beyond a passive consumer status, building resilient defence capabilities and asserting its voice as a leader of the Global South. To categorise a nuclear-armed state with an expanding space programme and a pivotal role in global supply chains as merely a "market" is deliberate narrative erasure. Consider India's role in the Quad, or its emerging position as a critical node in semiconductor supply chain diversification. These are not the achievements of a mere market.

But Qayyum's critique contains a kernel of truth: India's economic heft has not yet translated into agenda-setting power. It can convene but cannot compel. It can participate but cannot shape outcomes.

Still, Qayyum's essay reads more like narrative warfare than sober analysis. That said, the piece prods at an uncomfortable broader reality about our long-enduring stalemate. John Prine captured this kind of quiet human weariness in a powerful song from his 1971 debut album:

'I am an old woman named after my mother/ My old man is another child who's grown old./ When I was a young girl, well, I had me a cowboy/ He weren't much to look at, just a free ramblin' man/ But that was a long time, and no matter how I try/ The years just flow by like a broken-down dam.'

A generation ago, the consensus was that the new century would be defined by Asian resurgence, with New Delhi as one of its twin pillars. How many times did we hear it – *This is Asia's century* – that India was destined to take its rightful place on the world stage? Yet as the geopolitical map hardens into a purely polar reality, India does risk being viewed as a destination for capital rather than an architect of the global order. Qayyum points to stalled regional initiatives and even to Pakistan's recent diplomatic manoeuvres as evidence that India remains more consumer market than regional power broker.

Converting market strength into sustained influence remains a profound challenge. It requires more than reactive operations or symbolic posturing; it demands a rigorous commitment to building resilient institutions and a diplomacy that prioritises tangible strategic outcomes over optics. The wholesale neglect of normative power is particularly telling: in India, this manifests through the chasm between academia and governance, the former impoverished in funding, the latter impoverished in ideas. That glaring gap will hobble India's great power ambitions as long as it's left unaddressed.

'How the hell can a person go to work in the morning/ Then come home in the evening and have nothing to say?'

If focus remains on managing perceptions rather than resolving structural dependencies, India risks validating the very critiques it rightfully seeks to silence. The subcontinent's people deserve a future built on more than recycled patterns of accusation and denial; we need economic potential translated into a stable, independent regional order.

'If dreams were lightning and thunder were desire/ This old house would've burned down a long time ago'.

Perhaps this is our deepest pathology: the sheer exhaustion of repeating the same arguments, fighting the same battles, mourning the same losses, generation after generation. Qayyum's essay, for all its provocation, reflects Pakistan's own weariness with a conflict that has consumed resources and stunted potential for seventy-five years. His dismissal of Indian power may be overstated, but his implicit challenge still piques. The machinery of enmity grinds on, producing heat but precious little light, while both nations' citizens watch their potential futures deferred indefinitely.

'To believe in this livin' is just a hard way to go.'

ROVING REFLECTIONS

The key and the pickaxe

Assassinating Donald Trump or his far-right cheerleaders is not the answer, nor eliminating the Ayatollahs. The response to the Holocaust is not the genocide of Palestinians, but diplomacy, dialogue, fairness, and empathy. That moral baseline must not shift, no matter how turbulent the times.

Edward Luce wrote in *Financial Times*: "Even in a country with a grim history of political violence, Donald Trump certainly seems to attract a higher share than others of would-be assassins." Speaking to the press after yet another failed attempt on his life, Trump could not resist a self-congratulatory flourish. Only great figures like Abraham Lincoln, he suggested, are marked out by assassins, placing himself in that rarefied company.

History is less flattering. Both saints and tyrants have been targets. The assassin's bullet is indifferent to virtue. A haunting reminder comes from a 1968 cartoon by Bill Mauldin, published in the *Chicago Sun-Times* after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. It imagines a conversation in the afterlife between King and Mahatma Gandhi, who was felled by a fanatic's bullets in 1948: "The odd thing about assassins, Dr King, is that they think they've killed you."

The message is both simple and profound. Gandhi and King embraced non-violence and moral resistance; their ideas outlived their bodies. Assassination can end a life, but it cannot extinguish a philosophy.

By the same token, even if Trump and his war-mongering colleagues – alongside Israel's hardline leadership – target and eliminate leaders in Iran or Palestine, new ones will rise. You cannot snuff out the struggle of people seeking self-determination, nor can you bomb away aspirations for dignity. That is the root of the West Asia conflict: land, identity, and the refusal to recognise the rights of others. Genocide cannot be the answer to historical trauma. It is its betrayal.

Equally, the logic of violence rebounds. It follows, *ipso facto*, that a radicalised individual may again target the US President. The previous attackers were, after all, American citizens. But such acts, however dramatic, will not erase Trumpism: its hostility to immigrants, its flirtation with white supremacism, and its reduction of politics to spectacle and division.

Capt G R Gopinath (Retd.)
builds bridges, sometimes by tearing down walls. He is a soldier, farmer, and entrepreneur

America already grapples with a grim normalisation of violence, seen in mass shootings in schools, stadiums, concerts, and crowded boulevards. When a society witnesses not just sporadic violence but the spectacle of political power embracing force—of leaders who speak the language of domination—it risks legitimising the very impulses it claims to condemn.

If the head of the world's most powerful democracy turns rogue, or appears to sanctify violence, the consequences ripple far beyond its borders. It invites imitation. It lowers the threshold of what is acceptable. Killing Trump, morally abhorrent in itself, is not the way to eradicate Trumpism.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, reflecting on Napoleon, observed: "Every organ is made up of similars... if Napoleon is France, it is because the people whom he sways are little Napoleons." The insight is unsettling. If Trump rose to power through popular mandate, it is because many who supported him saw themselves reflected in him – "little Trumps," as it were. The problem, then, is not merely the man, but the milieu that sustains him.

The antidote cannot be violence; it must be engagement. Those who believe in dialogue and democratic values must reshape the political climate – not just in the United States, but wherever authoritarianism and intolerance are on the rise. A stable and peaceful world rests on recognising diversity, pluralism, and the sovereign rights of nations, as envisioned in the UN Charter.

History offers sobering lessons. When the hungry asked for bread, emperors answered with bayonets. When indigenous communities demanded justice against exploitation, they were met with brutality instead of empathy. When people sought sovereignty over their lands, bombs often replaced negotiation. Each time, power chose force over wisdom – and each time, it deepened the crisis.

Rabindranath Tagore captured this failure with characteristic elegance: "The clumsiness of power spoils the key, and uses the pickaxe."

That clumsiness defines much of our present moment. Wars are waged with the detachment of video games; lives reduced to statistics; retaliation mistaken for resolution. Yet beneath the noise, the truth endures: violence begets violence, while justice, however slow, alone sustains peace.

In a Trumpian world where assassination becomes spectacle and statecraft risks sliding into vendetta, the real challenge is not eliminating enemies, but re-humanising politics. The choice is stark. We can continue down a path where power pulls the trigger – or we can reclaim one where it extends a hand.

SANS THE SACRED

In epic analogy, a misplaced moral lesson

The High Court of Madhya Pradesh recently made news by citing the *Ramayana* in a ruling that allowed a 10-year-old child to remain with her mother in India instead of sending her back to Canada, where her father lives. The court pointed out that the twins, Lava and Kusha, stayed with their mother, Sita, in Sage Valmiki's hermitage, rather than with Rama, despite him being the king of Ayodhya.

This is all very well, but need we mention that, given Rama had abandoned Sita, there was no way he would accept her children until she proved her innocence for the second time, and in public view? This is not to say that the custody of children should be awarded to fathers by default instead: just that the *Ramayana* is not a great instance of the best family dynamic to emulate.

I am often shocked by the simplistic moral lessons about relationships people take from the two incredible Sanskrit epics, when in fact, the amount of family dysfunction in the epics would keep hordes of therapists in business.

In fact, the episode of Sita's abandonment while she is pregnant, and her final plea of innocence, is heartrending – all the more because she really played by the rules of the game. She loved Rama, she always put his interests before her own, and she was utterly devoted to him. Yet, she was abandoned the second time, even after the god of fire, Agni, testified to her innocence in Lanka the first time.

Lakshmana, entrusted with the unenviable task of abandoning Sita near the hermitages on the banks of the Ganga, tries not to show his distress when Sita tells him that she is experiencing some ill-omens. Her first thought at the ill-omens is not whether all will be well with her – she asks Lakshmana if he is sure that all is well with Rama, his brothers, and his mothers. And yet again, when Lakshmana breaks down at having to abandon her, she asks if Rama is well.

Anusha S Rao
is the author of *How to Love in Sanskrit* and likes writing new things about very old things

@AnushaSRao2

And when Lakshmana tells Sita that Rama has instructed him to abandon her, amidst her loud weeping, one of her first thoughts is this – "I would have plunged into the waters of the Ganga this very day and ended my life, were it not for the fact that Rama's lineage would end with me." Even as she is abandoned by the husband she loves, her concern for her unborn children is that they preserve Rama's royal lineage.

And then, at the end of Sita's story, Rama requests Valmiki to have Sita make another proclamation of her 'purity', with Valmiki as her witness. The sage proclaims that Sita has been faithful to Rama, even promising that he will forfeit all the results of his penance if he is lying. But Sita's final words are unexpected. Her final words before the earth swallows her up forever speak of her still unconditional love, but also her anguish at repeatedly having to prove her love and fidelity to an audience whose allegations never end, and a husband who needs their approval.

She makes a proclamation, but her proclamation of her fidelity is not to take her place by Rama's side but to remove herself from ever having to prove her love again.

Perhaps the best use of the epics today is not in treating them as templates for the ideal family but in recognising that if Rama's ideal kingdom could not give Sita the justice she deserved, how much more careful should we be?

OUTSIDE

Gut feelings and the body's truths

That which we cannot control, we feel compelled to turn into humour. You might be led to believe that I'm thinking of political satire, but it's actually the scatological that I mean. We have only as much control over our sleep and who we come to love as we do over our dreams and bowel movements. The first three of these, sleep, love, and dreams, fill us with varying degrees of wistfulness – they provide subject and form to the poetic; the last, the phrase 'bowel movement' itself, tickles, as if a laugh were waiting at the brim, in need of toppling over. Not for those who suffer from the lack of control of how the traffic moves inside them, of course.

The young couple in Gwendoline Riley's first novel, *First Love*, discuss their mothers through their morning habits: 'I used to hear these dreadful noises in the morning,' Edwyn said. And pleating his lips, and narrowing his eyes, to more precisely recall, so that eyebrow quills stood rampant, he said, 'Gurgling and spluttering. Like bad plumbing. Which it was, I suppose. Her grossly over-functioning digestion! The thundering waterfall of her first piss! Terrifying. I thought bodies were terrifying...'

I told him: 'I have memories of my mum on the toilet, too. Noises in the night. She had IBS. Stress-induced. I heard her crying once and got up and found her sitting with her nightie all gathered up between her knees. She said, "Leave me, please, go back to bed, Neve! Just leave me!" And there were these little splutters. In the morning I wondered if I'd dreamt it.'

I found myself thinking of Riley's novel, with the mothers suffering from problems to do with 'bowel movement', while watching yet another mother in the film *Toaster* – the landlady, Mrs D'Souza, sitting on the toilet, a bird's eye view of the bathroom, her son outside it, she struggling to get stool out of her, her words interpreted by her son to mean something far beyond the literal. 'I will die trying to...' She's dead in the next scene, inside a coffin – the struggle of the insides to come out literalised. The film is called *Toaster* – there's a homily about how bread causes constipation smuggled into it. It's the stuff of the comic, the top-view shot, censoring what will not be shown, the face of the suffering woman, between contortion and distortion, the tragicomedy of death.

Sumana Roy
is an author and poet. Her books include *How I Became a Tree* and *Provincials*

We seek transparency – a glove-less encounter with life – in art. Or so we summarise to ourselves when something feels too curated or kept back from us. But we are reluctant to meet indigestion and gas, diarrhoea and constipation in literature and art. Writers seem to find 'gut feeling' as hard to write (about) as socialising often feels for sufferers of 'digestion' problems. In 'creative writing' spaces devoted to such medical issues, poems like this appear – a poem that has the title 'Pardon Me', an apology for one's digestive system:

'Pardon me, for being so rude,/ It was not me – nor my food;/ I have this thing called IBS/ That puts my innards to the test./ My dear old tummy cannot cope/ With salty food, chips and coke./ Sometimes bread and pasta too/ Can have me dashing to the loo.../ Sensitive guts are a sensitive topic,/ And sometimes symptoms are microscopic,/ But one thing's really vital, please,/ Do not jeer, and do not tease/ Gas and poop are stuff of jokes/ And can be funny for some folks;/ But think of those who must be wary/ Of carbs and fat and salt and dairy... It's not our fault, this handicap,/ Feeling bloated, sick and crap./ It's an illness; a disease,/ That brings us groaning to our knees...'

I notice that most of these poems, often posted anonymously, are in rhyme. Perhaps this reiterates the comic energy of such a medical condition, giving it the quality of limerick or even the nonsense rhyme. The word 'out' appears in these poems with the tone of a sigh, but it seems more like a prayer, a chant, a kind of pep-talk to something that does not have ears – the way one psyches oneself up with motivational quotes before a job interview. This 'out' is not the 'out' of poetry – it is not 'Out, out, brief candle!', even though our 'gut feeling' is predicated on 'tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow'.

CULTURE AND COSMOS

Blind sight: What multicultural couples reveal about love

Shaifali Sandhya
is an international psychologist, former professor, and writer on culture, cosmopolitanism, and global affairs

One April night in Delhi, 23-year-old Ruqyya was pulled from her hostel bed and sequestered by her family. Her offence: loving Ram Kripal, 31, a Hindu to her Muslim, a man she had never seen and could not see, as both are blind. Defiant, the lovers asked the Delhi High Court to protect the right their kin condemned: to love each other.

In New York, David, 40, an American Jew, asks his Palestinian-American wife, Layla, 36, "Will your grandmother be there to receive us in Jerusalem?" "I don't know," she says, "It's been a month. Her telephone line has gone quiet again."

Mixed couples are not merely social controversies, political symbols, or romantic exceptions. They are early witnesses to the emotional skills necessary for modern intimacy: translation, negotiation, ambiguity, and the ability to stay connected without insisting on sameness. From Singapore to South Africa, from Uruguay to Ukraine, intimacy is increasingly mixed – across race, ethnicity, religion, caste, and nationality – even as the world grows more anxious about borders. In the United States, one in five newlyweds marries across race or ethnicity, seven times the rate in 1967, when *Loving v. Virginia* voided anti-miscegenation law.

But the backlash tells another story. Multicultural couples have become lightning rods for a society's anxieties about demography, contamination, and belonging. In India, where caste and faith remain emotionally charged, interreligious marriage remains rare and, when visible, politically combustible. Uttar Pradesh's 2020 'love jihad' ordinance criminalises conversion for marriage without advance notice to a magistrate. But neutral-sounding laws do not guarantee neutral enforcement: of the 14 cases filed, 13 involved Hindu women allegedly converted to Islam. Among the Indian-American diaspora, endogamy remains high with 86% marrying within the community; some forms of their mixing are celebrated as cosmopolitan – 12% interracial, 2% cross-national – while others, such as a Dalit-Brahmin union, are treated as transgressions. The question is never whether differences exist, but which differences a society permits to matter.

Many societies remain deeply invested in controlling whom people may love. The more formidable constraints are not only those that forbid love, but those that render certain kinds of love unthinkable.

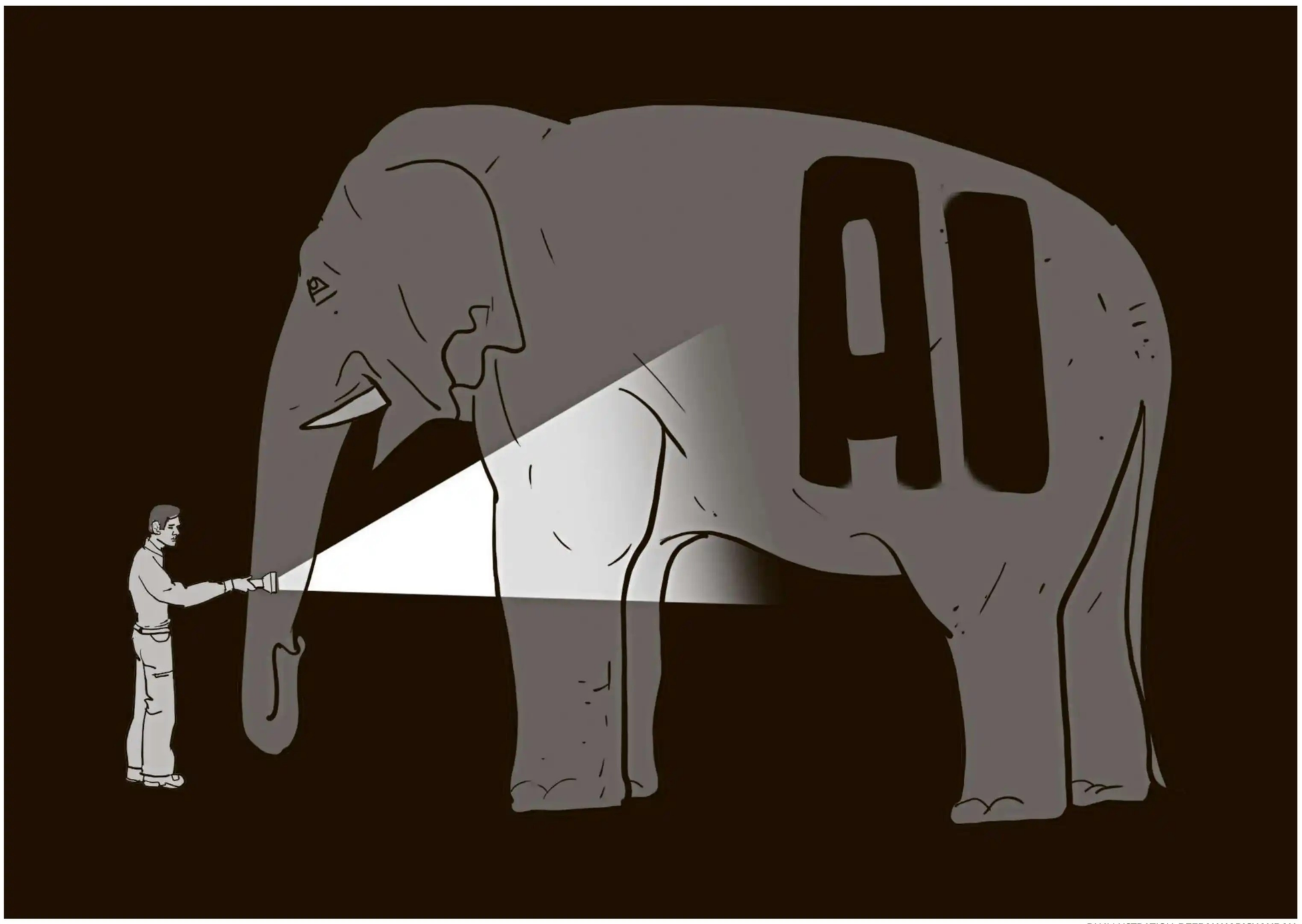
Science polices differences too. Most couples' research draws from a narrow slice: American, educated, middle-class, and largely white. The result? The models driving marriage education, couples therapy, and a multi-billion-dollar self-help industry are built on small samples, then exported as if love worked the same everywhere. Call it colour-blindness – the insistence on not seeing colour, faith, caste, or nation. But not seeing difference is not neutrality; it is a refusal of perception. Mixed couples expose this blindness because they cannot afford the fantasy of sameness.

Under pressure, mixed couples often learn early what other couples are allowed to postpone. Love isn't something found; it is built. Their relationships become laboratories in striving for the seven habits modern love requires: *They articulate early what others leave implicit*. Unable to rely on assumed sameness, they explain their families; manage differing assumptions about gender, obligation, boundaries, money, food, ritual, children, and future living arrangements. They learn that even a wedding menu or a child's name can become a battlefield. *They translate*. Each partner becomes a guide to a world the other did not grow up in – its idioms, its silences, its inheritances. *They build a third space*. Intimacy is not found but co-authored – an emotional home neither partner inherited, but one that requires that both must furnish. *They exercise a double vision*. They see both the person and the larger structures of power and history that enter with the person, without reducing the partner to a stand-in for a category or grievance. *The partner is not a mirror but a door to another world. They tolerate ambiguity and divided loyalties*. They protect differences without weaponising them. *They remain different, together.*

A sceptic will say mixed couples are self-selected. But selection explains who shows up, not what they learn. Some studies suggest that certain mixed couples face a higher divorce risk. But that reading is lazy; they carry differences that families, laws, communities, and even therapists may fail to help them metabolise.

It is one of modern love's paradoxes: mixed couples are rising precisely as identity hardens. Their love stands trial before older collective forces. An Indian and Indian-American couple may find themselves arguing over in-laws, gender roles, and sex. As education expands, migration reshapes households, and identities grow more layered, more people are living across inherited lines.

"Choose him, and you lose us," Ruqyya's father said, in open court. Denied one form of perception, Ruqyya and Ram Kripal exercised another that millions still refuse to use. Love does not transcend identity; it engages it. Multicultural couples hold differences without either partner's erasure. That is not only a romantic skill; it is also a civic skill that a fraying public will need.



DH ILLUSTRATION: **DEEPAK HARICHANDAN**

Play or be played

In a world where AI is transforming the very nature of work, survival isn't about resisting inevitable change but about learning and unlearning fast enough to stay in the game and not be outpaced by technology, write Ryan Roslansky and Aneesh Raman

In Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There, the Red Queen tells Alice: 'Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!'

That line from a children's book works as a principle for survival in rapidly changing environments. And it highlights another challenge of managing big change, which is that even after we've felt the ground shifting beneath our feet, our instinct is often to hunker down. But when everything around you is evolving, standing still means falling behind.

Think about competitive environments where both sides constantly adapt. In baseball, today's hitters use video analysis and launch-angle training to perfect their swings. But they're not dominating the game. Pitchers can now throw faster than ever, armed with detailed data on every batter's weakness. Neither side can rest. The moment one stops innovating, the other pulls ahead.

The same scenario unfolds everywhere competition exists. Cybersecurity experts develop new protections just as hackers find new vulnerabilities. Investors spot undervalued opportunities, but as soon as they act, the market adjusts and prices in that information. Every move triggers a countermove.

You're probably experiencing this same pressure without realising it. At work, falling behind rarely feels swift or dramatic. It can feel more casual, more incremental, even easy to miss. Maybe a colleague is suddenly talking about tools you haven't heard about. Or job postings for a role similar to yours start listing requirements that didn't exist a few years ago. Or there's a meeting where you realise everyone else seems to be speaking a slightly different language, talking about new approaches that feel foreign.

Importantly, the dynamic that's playing out does not pit you against other workers. You're racing against the drastic transformation of work itself. While you may be holding on to familiar skills and proven methods, work is changing at a fundamental level, which is why, since 2022, the rate at which LinkedIn members have been adding new skills to their profiles has increased by 140 per cent. Many of us are constantly upskilling or reconsidering which of our skills matter in the changing world of work. So how, precisely, do you move forward? It's not just about experimenting with AI. It's about using AI to amplify what makes you unique.

Don't fight the future

In 1811, bands of skilled weavers across England began destroying the mechanical looms that threatened their livelihoods. When questioned, the weavers blamed the damage on a mysterious man called Ned Ludd. Ned Ludd was a Robin Hood figure, a fictional leader for a real rebellion, a name to hide behind while they fought the future.

The Luddites, as they came to be known, weren't sceptical of technology. They believed in it. And that's why they were desperate. They were master craftsmen who understood exactly what the new machines meant: the end of their ability to earn a living. They could see the future clearly. They just thought they could stop it. Ultimately, this is the hard truth of technological resistance.

Those who fight hardest against change often understand its immediate consequences best. They see clearly what will be lost. When it comes to work, they aren't focused on what might be gained. MIT studied this pattern and found that 60 per cent of the jobs we were doing in 2018 did not exist in 1940. More recently, LinkedIn found that nearly 70 per cent of the jobs on the United States 2024 Jobs on the Rise List didn't exist 20 years ago. The lesson? Technology doesn't just replace work; it transforms what work can be, creating new jobs and new job categories in the process.

While the Luddites grasped what they stood to lose, they couldn't see the new jobs to come, like mechanic, engineer, and designer. The scribes who opposed Gutenberg's printing press in 1450? Within 50 years, Europe had nine million books in circulation, more than had been produced in the previous thousand years combined. All those books created all kinds of new jobs, like typesetter, printer, and bookbinder. The telephone operators who resisted automated switching? By 1950, there were more people working in telecommunications than ever before. They just did different jobs.

It's important here for us to be clear about something: Recognising historical patterns doesn't diminish the very real pain of disruption. The Luddites weren't wrong to be worried about their own particular jobs and livelihoods. Nor were the scribes or operators. They all had families to feed, skills that took decades to master, and communities built around their craft, identities based on their workmanship.

When technology comes for your ability to make money, telling you about potential future job offers is little comfort. The Luddites, whose jobs vanished, lost their livelihoods, and they personally did not benefit from the textile industry that replaced them. Yes, new jobs were created, but the workers themselves had little control over their fate. No warning. No tools to help them adapt. This is a truth across history, but it doesn't need to repeat itself.

This time, the knowledge of what's changing is available to everyone, and the ability to manage the change is available to everyone who has access to AI tools. And, critically, we still have time to adapt before AI fully transforms our jobs and industries.

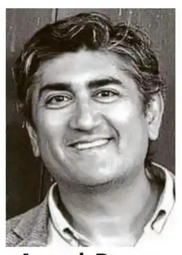
If you're sceptical about AI, we get it. If you're tired of hearing about AI, we get it. If you feel as if you need to nod in agreement when someone talks about AI, even though you have no idea what they're talking about, we get that, too. Here's the good news: To get ahead in the age of AI, you don't need to build AI. You just need to know how to use it. You've probably done something like this before. At some point, you likely learned how to type, send emails, make a PowerPoint deck, and work a smartphone. None of that required that you learn how to build a computer or write code. For the vast majority of us, this is the same process, except this time, the way you work with this tool is by talking to it like you would another person.

So here we are. You understand the speed of change. You also get that understanding isn't enough. You need a way to manage it. The old ways of work weren't designed to unleash human potential. They were designed for industrial efficiency. For speed. For scale. For predictability. For us humans to do more, better, faster. That old world is coming apart. And that's actually the opportunity.

For the first time in centuries, we can build work around what makes us most human: our capacity to create, solve novel problems, and connect meaningfully. AI handles the efficiency work. That frees us to do what no algorithm can: create solutions that have never existed before. And yet, so many of us are still holding on to the old rules.

Edited excerpt with permission from Open to Work: How to Get Ahead in the Age of AI by Aneesh Raman and Ryan Roslansky, published recently by HarperCollins. Aneesh Raman is LinkedIn's Chief Economic Opportunity Officer, where he works with leaders to shape the global response to the historic changes hitting work. Ryan Roslansky is EVP of LinkedIn and Microsoft Office.

> Technology doesn't just replace work; it transforms what work can be, creating new job categories in the process.



Aneesh Raman

Ryan Roslansky

Is more salary less discontent?

Many employees today are not unhappy because they are underpaid; they are tired because they are mentally overloaded

Every budget cycle and appraisal season brings the same assumption: increase salaries, and dissatisfaction will reduce. Post-budget hikes, market corrections, and revised compensation structures are expected to lift morale and motivation. Yet across workplaces, a contradiction is visible. Salaries have gone up, but dissatisfaction hasn't gone down. People are earning more, but feeling less fulfilled. And this discomfort cannot be explained by compensation alone.

False promise

Salary solves financial stress, not emotional stress. When people struggle to meet basic needs, pay matters deeply. But once that threshold is crossed, dissatisfaction usually comes from somewhere else — lack of meaning, constant pressure, unclear expectations, poor communication, or emotional exhaustion. If money created fulfilment, the highest-paid professionals would be the happiest — they aren't. Money addresses survival. Satisfaction comes from clarity, respect, and stability. Many employees today are not unhappy because they are underpaid; they are tired because they are mentally overloaded.

Modern workplaces demand more than output. They demand availability, adaptability, speed, and constant alignment. Roles change faster than people can emotionally adjust. Expectations are high, timelines are tight, and boundaries are blurred. When emotional strain builds up without space to process, no salary increment can compensate for the loss of inner balance. People don't leave jobs because of money alone; they leave because work starts consuming their identity, not just their time. Higher salaries often come with higher expectations — longer hours, faster turnarounds, and constant connectivity. Many employees accept this trade-off, believing it is temporary. Over time, the cost shows up as disengagement. Organisations begin to notice well-paid employees who feel disconnected, high performers burning out, and teams delivering results without enthusiasm. The issue isn't compensation. It's emotional sustainability.

Recognition matters

One of the most overlooked contributors to dissatisfaction is the absence of genuine recognition — not incentives or bonuses, but being heard, respected, and trusted. When effort goes unnoticed, salary feels transactional. When communication is unclear, pay feels like compensation for confusion. When values are misaligned, money loses meaning. People want to feel valued as human beings, not just as resources.

Many employees do not clearly know what success looks like in their role. Goals keep shifting. Feedback is inconsistent. Expectations are implied rather than expressed. This lack of clarity creates anxiety, and anxiety cannot be solved with hikes. A clear role, a supportive manager, and a sense of contribution often do more for workplace satisfaction than a higher paycheck. Workplace satisfaction improves when employees feel emotionally safe to speak, when workload feels fair and purposeful, when boundaries are respected, when growth aligns with personal values, and when work allows space for life, not just performance. These factors do not appear on pay slips, but they determine how long people remain engaged.

Higher salaries are important. They reflect fairness and respect for effort. But they are not a substitute for emotional well-being at work. Workplace dissatisfaction is not primarily a salary problem; it is an emotional and structural one. When people feel internally stable, seen, and purposeful, productivity follows naturally. Without that stability, even the best pay packages fail to retain meaning.

Deek Parassini

The author is a global transformational guide and speaker with over two decades of corporate experience.

ASTROSPEAK

Guruji Shrii Arnav

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Feedback from our readers

It is always a pleasure to hear what our readers think of the articles we publish. Here's a selection of responses we have received in recent weeks. *(The responses have been edited for brevity and clarity).* Mail your responses to **dhonsunday@deccanherald.co.in**

I eagerly look forward to your monthly column, **Paws & Life (Art & Pursuits).** The writing is so simple, warm, and heartfelt that it instantly creates a connection with the reader. I must confess, I don't have a dog, but I love them dearly. Through your stories, I almost feel as if I know each of them personally. I am 70 years old, and while that number may place me in the "senior citizen" category, somewhere inside I remain a six-year-old who delights in children's books and storytelling. I particularly enjoy narrating stories to little ones.

Shashi, Bengaluru

The article on **bhajan clubbing (Big Picture/ March 15)** was quite interesting. The spiritual shift of Gen Z is manifesting through Bhajans. There is a group in Kerala that has become so popular that sponsors vie with each other to arrange their bhajans.

A V Akhilesh, Bengaluru

This is about the article on understanding dogs in the **Paws & Life column (Art & Pursuits/ Feb 15).** I love how the author talks about the need to understand canine language so that misconceptions recede.

Kenisha Jocelyn M Kuri

The article on **weight-loss drugs (Wellness/ April 5)** was very timely. I have many obese patients in my practice, actually. Texas has a high obesity rate. Many patients are too old and have mobility issues, so exercise is not an option, and at this point, a diet change is hopeless.

Dr Ravi Chandrashekhara, USA

I love the articles in the **Paws & Life column. (Art & Pursuits),** especially the one that talked about learning to understand dogs better. This resonates deeply, and the topic is something I often think about. Thank you for writing!

Dhawall Mane

The article on **festivals and women (Gender/April 5)** is an important issue, eloquently expressed. It sheds light on the inequalities ingrained in the system.

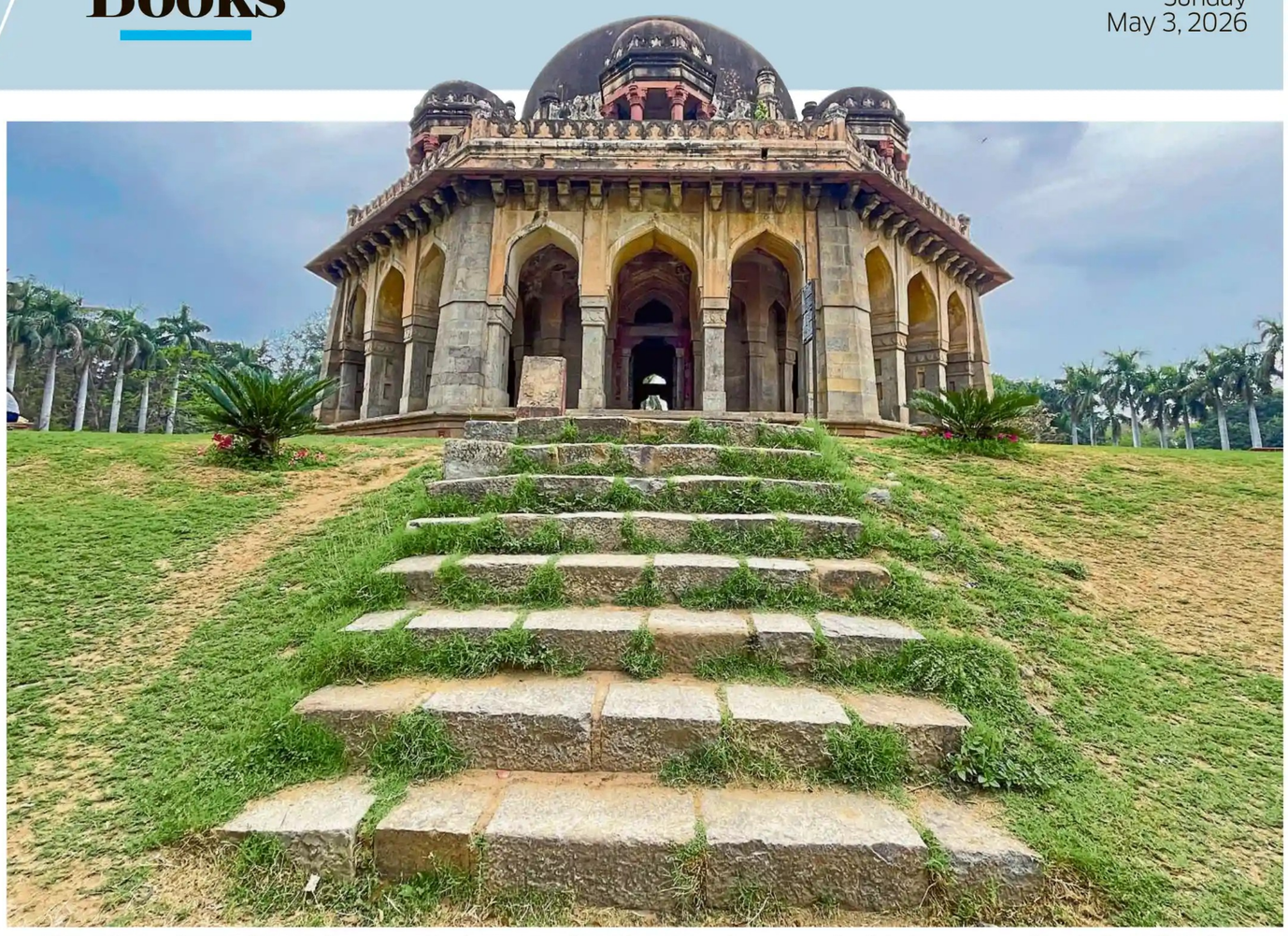
Debeshi Gooptu

The article **'Staying Through the Storm (Big Picture/Mar 1)** was insightful. Relationships begin, evolve unexpectedly, but rarely come with guidance on how to end them. When friendships or partnerships become stagnant or misaligned, staying out of habit breeds quiet resentment.

P V Prakash, Mumbai

This is a lyrical, sharp-eyed exploration of Delhi's hidden biodiversity that nudges readers to rediscover nature even in urban jungles, writes Chintan Girish Modi

Beyond the Dilli smog

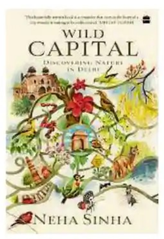


The author pushes readers to take a second look at NCR and treat it as more than a seat of political power. Seen here is the Lodi Gardens in the capital, spread over 90 acres.

With the National Capital Region's air pollution dominating the news cycle every winter, it is hard for outsiders to think of it as a thriving hotspot for India's biodiversity. That's where conservation biologist Neha Sinha's new book Wild Capital comes in as an unexpected reminder, grounded in science and delivered in prose that is rich in memory and metaphor. She wears her expertise lightly, welcoming readers into a subject that can seem too technical and specialised.

"What do you see out of your window as you read this?" When a book opens with a sentence like this, it stands out because the author is not preaching from a podium, assuming that readers do not share her love of trees, animals, birds, forests, rivers and mountains. Her delight and discovery take centre stage, so her advocacy lands in a way that feels persuasive but never forced.

"I search for places that have meaning for both the human and the more-than-human," notes Sinha, whose book is based on jaunts and expeditions across Delhi, Gurugram and Faridabad, which left her with observations, questions, and longings that found their way into her writing.



WILD CAPITAL
Neha Sinha
Harper, pp 320, Rs 799

She recasts the capital in a warm, endearing light. Her curious eye and her ability to scoop joy out of the smallest of things push readers to see NCR as more than a seat of political power.

Sinha's description of the semal, for instance, says more about her loving gaze than the tree itself. She writes, "It also lives unabashedly, with the soul of a Gauguin painting or an ikat handloom saree — splotching everything with colour, a little messy, a little out of bounds, almost too much to take in at once, always vivid." This is a lively example of how human interaction with other species does not have to be exploitative; it can be tender, poetic, and affectionate.

Childlike wonder

The author shows how to protect one's childlike wonder and fertile imagination from being dulled by too much information. Green sandpipers, with their white bellies, remind her of vanilla ice cream. Hornbills, with their agile moves, appear like ballerinas with beaks. Sinha watches, transfixed, as bats "pause their snacking to fan themselves" and butterflies bask in the sun. These descriptions create a more lasting impression than the photographs and illustrations in the book.

It urges readers to explore beyond popular spots like Sunder Nursery and Lodi Gardens. It takes them to Sarojini Nagar, Tughlaqabad, Chanakyapuri, Hauz Khas, Bhondsi, Wazirabad, Sanjay Van, Mangar, Aravalli Biodiversity Park, and the Delhi Ridge, among other places. The focus here is not on identifying trees by their "formal names" but on falling in love with them.

"What matters is that you notice the tree, and that you allow it to tunnel into your life, to open new neural pathways," remarks Sinha. While reading these words thick with empathy, one wishes that Wild Capital would miraculously fall into the hands of officials who make hasty decisions about decimating entire ecosystems to build shiny infrastructure for humans.

While the overall mood of the book is celebratory, even bathed in nostalgia, Sinha does not make the mistake of portraying nature as inherently or perennially benevolent. She refers, for instance, to '*vilayati kikar*' (*Neltuma juliflora*) as "the vermin of the plant world" because these "deadly invasives from Mexico...over-compete with other trees, eventually killing them". These trees are likened to colonisers who steal nutrition and sunlight from native trees that need space to flourish.

This observation lays bare the anthropocentrism ingrained in human beings that makes it difficult to step back and refrain from projecting value judgements onto how nature operates. If animals, birds and trees had the sort of agency and voice that humans do, would they really want humans to be voyeurs and study their mating habits, dietary preferences and migratory patterns? It is rare for humans to reflect on whether their thirst for exploration benefits or harms other species.

The metaphor of colonisation opens a door that Sinha is reluctant to walk through. Anti-colonial as well as eco-feminist scholars have written at length about the links between the oppression of women, indigenous people and animals. Contemporary work in critical animal studies looks at the consumption of dairy and meat as a continuation of colonial ideologies that exploit the less powerful. Sinha does not venture into this controversial terrain, reserving her energy for topics that feel safer to talk about, like the dumping of rubble on riversides, which, of course, needs to stop.

That said, Wild Capital is a book worth reading, as it encourages both the expert and the novice to put aside their limited worldview and notice what has always been there waiting to be seen.

The reviewer is a writer and literary critic.

Chills and thrills below the surface

This atmospheric novel is not just a tale of murder but a layered exploration of guilt, memory and the enduring weight of past histories, writes Shraddha A K

Known for his ability to craft psychological horrors rooted in the everyday, Arnab Ray's writing often thrives on subtlety rather than spectacle. His narratives rarely depend on overt scares or dramatic shocks; instead, they cultivate a slow, creeping unease through atmosphere, symbolism, and the emotional complexity of his characters. His horror feels intimate — less about what is seen and more about what is felt, remembered, and left unresolved.

The Bucket stands as a compelling example of this approach, presenting itself not merely as a story of murder but as a layered exploration of guilt, memory, and the enduring weight of the past.

THE BUCKET
Arnab Ray
Hachette, pp 408, Rs 599

The novel follows a quartet of estranged childhood friends — once proudly calling themselves "the musketeers". They reunite 30 years after a tragedy that has irreversibly fractured their bond. Time has ushered them into vastly different lives: one is a Bollywood star, another a government minister, the third a physics professor, and the fourth is battling cancer. Despite their outward success and distance from one another, they are drawn back together by the production of a murder documentary, centred on the same tragedy that once tore them apart — the death of their friend, Pramila.

Right from the outset, The Bucket establishes an unsettling and persistent tone. Pramila's death, by drowning in her own home, lingers as more than a past event; it feels like an active presence within the narrative. Ray carefully builds this atmosphere through the recurring motif of water, which becomes both a symbol and a source of dread. Whether it appears as tears, a passing mention of rain, or something as mundane as a glass of ice-cold water, each instance carries an undercurrent of unease. Over time, this repetition transforms the ordinary into something ominous, allowing the horror to seep quietly into the reader's consciousness rather than striking them directly.

The strength of the novel lies significantly in its characters. Each character is thoughtfully constructed, shaped by the passage of time, personal ambition, and the shadow of their shared past.

Their differences — in profession, temperament, and worldview — add depth to their interactions, and their individual arcs reflect varying ways of coping with guilt and memory. However, Ray's writing style occasionally blurs the distinction between their voices. Despite this, each character ultimately leaves a lasting impression, especially through moments of introspection where they confront their own flaws, regrets, and moral ambiguities.

Another notable aspect of the novel is its willingness to engage with uncomfortable and sometimes regressive viewpoints held by its characters. Rather than presenting them as purely heroic or entirely flawed, Ray allows these perspectives to exist within the narrative in a way that feels authentic to the characters' backgrounds and experiences. These moments are handled with restraint and nuance, often evoking discomfort or second-hand embarrassment in the reader. This discomfort, however, serves a purpose — it reinforces the realism of the characters and highlights the complexity of their personalities rather than simplifying them.

Structurally, the novel takes a non-linear path, weaving the past and the present fluidly, gradually revealing the events that led to Pramila's death while simultaneously exploring the present-day consequences. The transitions between timelines and perspectives are handled with clarity, allowing the story to unfold in layers without becoming disjointed. This shifting narrative structure enhances the sense of mystery and keeps the reader engaged as pieces of the puzzle fall into place.

That said, the novel is not without its flaws. Midway through, the narrative begins to feel somewhat repetitive, particularly in its use of how the characters talk, react, and the emotional beats. Some plot developments also come across as predictable, especially for readers familiar with the horror genre. However, these shortcomings are balanced by well-executed twists that emerge subtly, often hiding in plain sight and gaining impact through the buildup that precedes them.

Taken as a whole, The Bucket is a haunting and introspective novel that lingers long after the final page is turned. With its evocative narratives, layered characters, and persistent sense of unease, the book offers more than just a mystery. It becomes a meditation on guilt, memory, and the inescapable clutches of the past.Although it does falter at times, in pacing and repetition, its strengths lie in its ability to evoke quiet thrills and chills that ripple beneath the surface, making it a compelling and thought-provoking read.

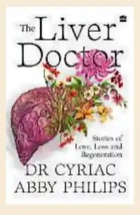
SPEED READS

A rush of feeling, a quiet ache, a sense of wonder or a longing for love...these stories map the many shades of being human.

1 More Than 8 by Sheila Kunjur Srinivas (RG Books)
This is a collection of short stories that promise to cover all the 'navarasas' of our emotions. The stories linger on the edges of everyday life, and the writing is free-flowing and focused on the emotional undercurrents of our lives, where memories, longings and joys all get jumbled together. The stories are unhurried and mostly ring true, although they would have benefited from tighter editing.

Our Stories Are Us by Multiple Authors (Myndstories Publn)
This is a literary anthology that brings together a set of real, deeply personal narratives about the fragile beauty of human relationships. Through essays and memoir-style reflections, this collection brings together voices that speak with honesty about grief, resilience, vulnerability and healing. Blending the honesty of non-fiction and storytelling, these lived experiences of love and loss tell of relationships that transform us, grief that shakes us from deep within, and moments of connection that leave a lasting imprint.

The Liver Doctor by Dr Cyriac Abby Philips (HarperCollins)
The author, an expert hepatologist and one of India's most vocal advocates of science-led medicine, tells us the fascinating story of the least understood, most indispensable and only self-regenerating organ in the human body — the liver. He dives into ancient myths and legends through various cultures, the annals of history, as well as his own deeply personal encounters from his life as a doctor, taking his readers on a wondrous journey.



Speed Reads *is a column for the bookworm who is short on time and reads on the go.*

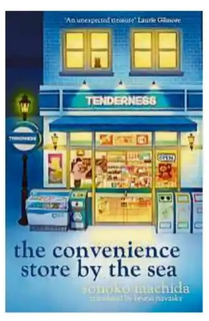
JIMBOCHO

Falling for the 'Japan effect'

Beneath the aesthetic calm of this novel, there is isolation and emotional fatigue, which makes its story both tender and complex at the same time, writes Asra Mavad

There is a particular stillness to The Convenience Store By The Sea by Sonoko Machida. The kind that doesn't announce itself, but quietly settles into your reading rhythm. It is not a novel that demands urgency; instead, it invites attention.

Set in a coastal town, the story revolves around a small convenience store called Tenderness, a space that becomes less of a retail setting and more of an emotional dilemma. Much like in 'Convenience Store Woman' by Sayaka Murata, the store is not just a backdrop but a character in itself. People drift in and out — employees, regulars, strangers — and through them, Machida constructs a mosaic of lives that are fragile, searching, and quietly hopeful.



CONVENIENCE STORE BY THE SEA
Sonoko Machida
Orion, pp 288, Rs 499

In what I've come to think of as a very personal reading preference, I gravitate towards books where nothing much happens, but everything shifts. This novel sits comfortably in that space. There is no dramatic arc, no looming conflict waiting to explode. Instead, Machida relies on accumulation — small gestures, fleeting interactions, the unspoken comfort of routine. Much like how I live my life. An individual finds a moment of belonging in accumulated patterns. These are not transformations you can pinpoint, but you feel them nonetheless.

The prose, soft and unintrusive, mirrors the emotional landscape of the book. Even in translation, it carries a kind of restraint that feels intentional. Nothing is overstated. Emotions are rarely spelt out. And yet, there is a lingering warmth in the way characters are treated, as if the narrative itself believes in their quiet resilience.

That said, the novel may not work for everyone. Its gentleness can, at times, border on sameness. The characters occasionally blur into each other, their struggles echoing in similar tones.

Set in a coastal town in Japan, the story revolves around a small convenience store.
(PIC FOR REPRESENTATION)

If you're looking for narrative sharpness or psychological intensity, this might feel too subdued. But to judge it by those standards is to miss the point. This is not a book about disruption; it is about continuity, about the small, steady ways in which people endure.

Cultural phenomenon

While reading The Convenience Store By The Sea, it's hard to ignore the lens of what's now being called the 'Japan Effect'. This isn't just about literature; it's a broader cultural phenomenon shaped by social media. A simple street, a vending machine, a quiet alley — these become instantly aesthetic, even poetic, the moment they are framed as "Japan". The ordinary is elevated through association.

This book operates in a remarkably similar way. On paper, very little about its setting is extraordinary. A convenience store. Packaged meals. Coffee machines. People are going about their routines. Strip away the context, and these could be scenes from anywhere. But the novel's cultural framing — its Japanese sensibility of attentiveness, order, and emotional restraint — transforms these mundane details into something almost meditative.

It's not that the book romanticises Japan in an overt manner. Rather, it benefits from the same psychological bias that fuels the 'Japan Effect'. As readers, we are already primed to see beauty in these details. The neatly arranged shelves feel more meaningful. The quiet interactions seem deeper. Even loneliness appears more contemplative than bleak.

What's interesting, though, is that Machida subtly resists this romanticisation. Beneath the aesthetic calm, there is isolation, dissatisfaction, and emotional fatigue. The store may be called Tenderness, but not every life within it is gentle.

In the end, this is not a book that will overwhelm you. It will not leave you stunned or shaken. Instead, it lingers softly, like a familiar place you didn't realise you needed. And perhaps that is its greatest strength: it makes the everyday feel seen, without insisting that it be anything more.

Jimbocho *is an occasional column where we sift through popular Japanese books. Often called the 'town of books', Jimbocho is a neighbourhood in Tokyo that celebrates Japan's rich literary heritage.*

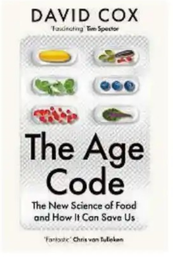
READ OF THE WEEK

From the rising incidence of cancer in the under-50s to increased infertility rates, there are signs everywhere that growing numbers of us are ageing too quickly. Why? Many believe there's one major culprit: our diet.

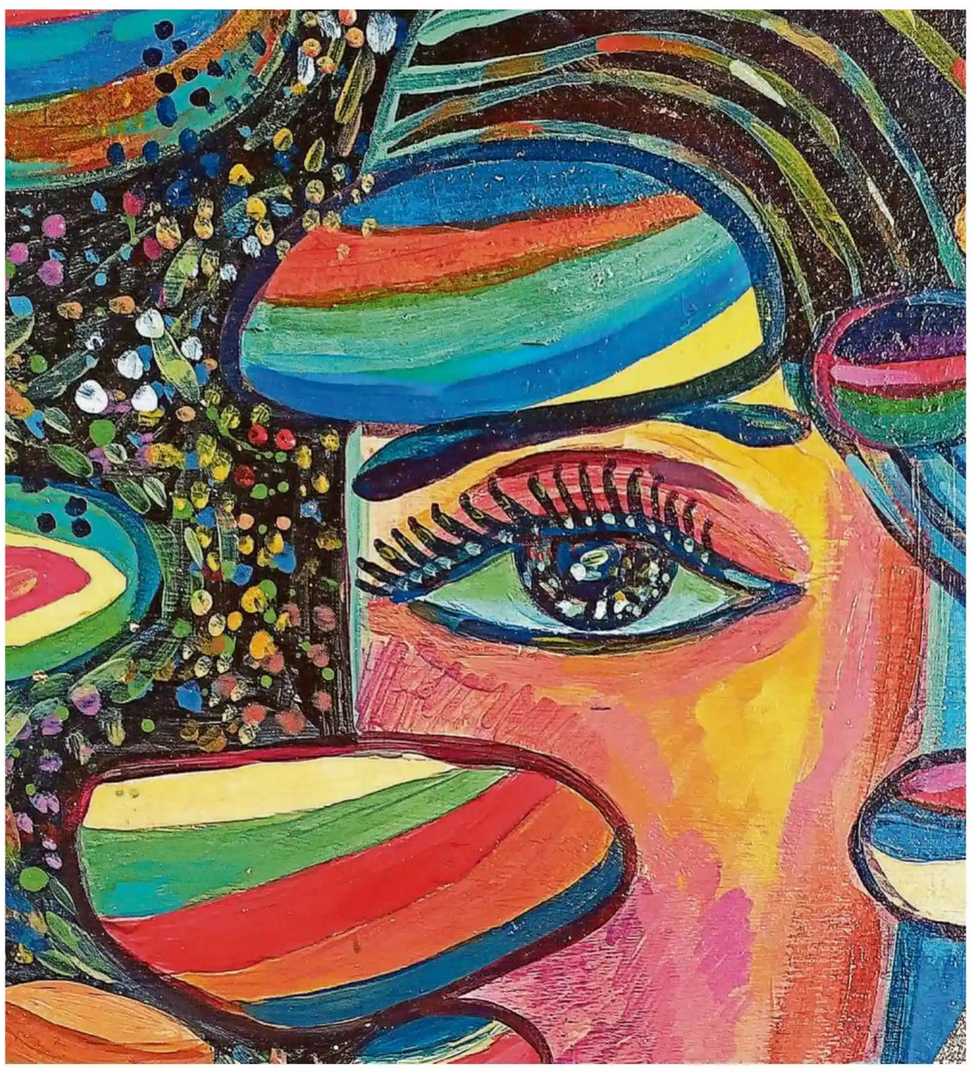
Ageing reflects a fragile balance in our cells between damage and repair. Sugar, excess calories and gut inflammation are all common sources of damage, but if we instead fuel our bodies with valuable micronutrients, we can lower our disease risk and age markedly more slowly. Until recently, this process was impossible to measure, but with breakthroughs, we can even assess the age of individual organs, giving rise to a new science of food that might save us. In this book, Dr David Cox meets experts as he attempts to understand what's accelerating our biological clocks and what we can do about it.

Along the way, you will learn everything from why we become more acidic as we age to why omega-3s are one of the most powerful anti-ageing supplements, to the simple adjustments to our cooking that will help you age better.

Dr David Cox is a neuroscientist turned health journalist who writes for a range of major publications in the UK and the US, including the *BBC*, *Telegraph*, *Guardian*, *The Times*, and *WIRED*.



The decision to be a single-child family is a complex one, dictated by financial and medical reasons. Sometimes, it's the absence of a support system and care infrastructure. Reasons for such decisions aside, women's choices are perceived as selfish while those of men are considered strategic, writes Tanisha Saxena



WHEN 'JUST ONE' SPARKS SCRUTINY

Delhi-based Sukriti Mathur, 28, still remembers the exact manner in which the question was asked. It was something that usually passes for small talk. "Some guests had come over, and one of the women — meeting us for the first time — asked my mother how many children she has after she saw me," she says. Her mother smiled, and said, "Just one."

Sukriti pauses. "There was shift and you could feel it. And then it came: Only one?"

For Sukriti, the discomfort was not new. It had followed her in fragments — in school admissions, during casual conversations, in the offhand sympathy of strangers. "People don't say it outright," she says. "But you grow up sensing that you are a lesser version of a family." Even though we have moved past narratives of the "the ideal mother" and have accepted women focussed on careers, our culturally rooted norms still struggle with the woman who refuses to be consumed by motherhood.

Sociologist Gulshan Sihag from Gujarat University, explains, "In the Indian sociological imagination, the family is not merely a private unit; it is a reproductive contract with the community and the groups to which she belonged." Sihag adds, "Historically, plurality was a hedge against high infant mortality and a strategy for agrarian labour. There remains a kind of structural anxiety with one child. And if that child is a girl, the patriarchal lineage is seen as reaching a "dead end." Consequently, the single child family is seen as incomplete not because of lack of love, but because it fails to satisfy the social expectation of multigenerational safety net and the socially constructed norms of society."

Not always about choice

The decision to have one child — or more — is framed as preference, temperament, even selfishness. But there are other lived realities, that of pregnancy, recovery, and risk.

Dr Teji Dawane, Senior Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at a Bengaluru hospital describes postpartum recovery as a "sea change"— uneven, and often prolonged. Particularly after Caesarean sections, healing is neither swift nor linear; there are lactation challenges, sleep deprivation, and emotional recalibration.

For many women, recovery stretches months; some need a year or more to feel remotely normal. Yet this timeline rarely enters family expectations. As nuclear households expand and women return to work early, the postpartum period becomes an impossible overlap of care, labour, and healing.

Dr Dawane adds, "Gestational diabetes, hypertension, and thyroid disorders are increasingly common, prolonging recovery and intensifying risk in subsequent pregnancies." For those whose first experience was medically difficult, another pregnancy can feel less like choice and more like calculation.

In cases involving assisted fertility, the strain deepens. Treatments such as IVF introduce hormonal demands and higher chances of preterm birth, multiple pregnancies, and complications for both mother and child. In some instances, doctors explicitly advise against another pregnancy.

Such guidance often clashes with social expectations that privilege larger families or the idea of a sibling. Women are left negotiating between medical advice, personal limits, and cultural pressure, weighing desire against the memory of what the body has already endured.

Gendered asymmetry

For Mumbai-based Anita Narang, 52, the decision to have one child was shaped by financial strain. But its emotional aftermath has been unevenly distributed.

"After the birth of our daughter, we were struggling financially," she says. "We decided not to have another child. I started working soon after my pregnancy to support the household."

Years later, she still feels the weight of that choice. "I admit that I feel lesser, incomplete," she says. "At family functions, when people say 'just one,' my smile shrinks. It feels like I've committed some kind of crime." Her husband, she observes, has never had to answer such questions.

Sihag frames this disparity as deeply gendered. "When a man advocates for a single child, it is read as economic rationalism," she says — evidence of foresight and responsibility, a desire to consolidate resources and provide a better quality of life.

"But when a woman makes the same decision, it is often framed as selfishness," Sihag adds. She is seen as protecting her body or her career at the expense of her child's needs, she notes. The asymmetry is stark. "Men are allowed to be strategic," she says, adding, "Women are only allowed to be sacrificial."

Cultural myths that persist

Layered onto this is a persistent cultural myth: that a single child is, by definition, socially deprived. Kavita Yadav, psychologist, psychotherapist, and parenting coach, challenges this assumption. Social development, she argues, is not determined by the presence of siblings alone, but by the emotional availability of caregivers, exposure to peers, and the broader home environment. An only child raised in an attuned, responsive household can be just as socially capable — sometimes more so — than a child with siblings.

Yet, in India, the mother of one is often scrutinised for retaining a sense of self beyond motherhood. The critique can be subtle but sharp: that she has withheld something essential from her child. In reality, Yadav notes, maternal well-being is closely tied to more responsive and emotionally available parenting. The issue is not the absence of siblings, but as the balance between support and autonomy, attention and independence.

In many cases, the decision to have one child is less an ideological stance and more a negotiation with constraints — financial limits, lack of care infrastructure, time, health, and the desire to "do justice" to parenting. What persists, however, is a cultural discomfort with that choice, particularly when it is made by women.

Dropping fertility rate

India is gradually becoming a smaller-family nation. The country's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has declined to about 1.9 children per woman between 2023 and 2025, falling below the replacement level of 2.1, according to recent estimates by the United Nations Population Fund and data analyses from Data for India. This marks a steep drop from nearly 2.9 in 2005 to around 2.0 by 2020, reflecting a long-term structural shift in how Indian families are being imagined and built.

Within this transition, only-child families remain a minority but are steadily rising, especially in urban India. A peer-reviewed study published in 2016 in the National Center for Biotechnology Information estimated that only about five per cent of Indian households had a single child, but the proportion rose to roughly 13 per cent in metropolitan areas, particularly among educated and higher-income groups.

Recent research suggests that the stigma surrounding only-child families persists even as evidence increasingly challenges it. A 2024 report by the American Psychological Association finds that stereotypes of only children as selfish or maladjusted remain culturally entrenched despite decades of data showing otherwise.

Another 2024 study published in World Journal of Clinical Cases finds that parenting stress is closely tied to family structure — but not in the way popular perception assumes. In fact, while multi-child households reported higher overall stress levels, the study underscores that in single-child families, parenting remains highly intensive and psychologically concentrated, with parental attitudes, expectations, and involvement playing a disproportionately large role in shaping the child's emotional world.

Travel

Spanish **delight**

Trujillo is at once a medieval town and a modern gastronomic centre. Kalpana Sunder takes a tour of the city, discovering its ancient churches and monuments, while also sampling its artisanal cheeses

Equestrian statue of Francisco Pizarro at Plaza Mayor, the town square.

From my vantage point, the town looked like it was carved from golden rock, its ramparts catching the light in soft honey tones, its church towers piercing the vast blue sky, with ungainly storks nesting on top of towers. I was in Trujillo, one of Spain's most atmospheric towns, rising from the Extremadura plains, close to the border with Portugal. My viewpoint was the Moorish fortress on the hill, built with weathered Roman stone, featuring cisterns and lofty towers, which was one of the locations for the show, 'Game of Thrones'.

I arrived in the town just as the late afternoon sun dipped low, casting long shadows across the legendary Plaza Mayor. I felt like I had walked into a different century. This beautiful square was ringed by baroque and Renaissance palaces, whose façades glowed amber at sunset and swallows flew over my head.

In the middle was the large bronze green equestrian statue of Francisco Pizarro, Trujillo's most infamous son, who defeated the Incas in the 1470s.

My stay in Trujillo was at a hotel housed in a former 16th-century convent of Santa Marta with cloisters and vaults. My guide David Polo, explained that it was from this humble town that countless adventurers and nobles embarked to conquer the New World and this shaped the fabric of its streets. Many locals returned with great riches, and built their flamboyant mansions and palaces, flaunting their wealth. Among them was Francisco de Orellana, who was the first European to explore River Amazon and Francisco Pizarro, who was the Governor of Peru. I explored the San Martin de Tours church on the northeastern side of the square with both Gothic and Renaissance elements and a Baroque choir.

Echoes of the past

Trujillo's Plaza Mayor is the epicentre of the city. It's surrounded by arched porticos and lavish stone palaces built by returning conquistadors, men who crossed the Atlantic in search of fortune and returned with wealth and notoriety, as well as potatoes and tomatoes. The town is lined with their stately homes, adorned with coats of arms, stone balconies, and ornate doorframes, harking back to a time when this region was an important one.

History whispers from every corner of the town. The city has been under the Romans, Visigoths, Arabs, Jews, and Christians in the past. Walking by these buildings, I can imagine the ships setting sail, encountering unknown continents, bringing back gold, stories, and influence that would reshape both Trujillo and the world. The town was a walled city and today four of the seven old city gates still remain.

QUICK TAKES

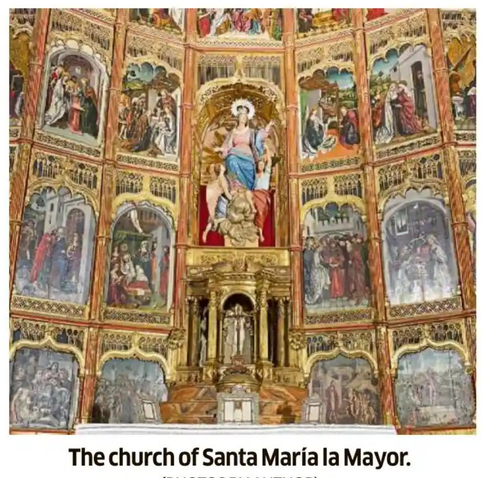
- Adventurers and nobles set out to conquer the New World; many returned with great riches. Among them was Francisco de Orellana, who discovered River Amazon and Francisco Pizarro, who was the Governor of Peru.
- In the Plaza Mayor square is a large bronze green, equestrian statue of Francisco Pizarro, Trujillo's most infamous son, who defeated the Incas in the 1470s.
- Every spring, Trujillo hosts the National Cheese Festival with over 300 stalls overflowing with different kinds of cheese.
- The Moorish fortress on the hill, built with weathered Roman stone, was one of the locations for the 'Game of Thrones'.

Moorish castle

I climbed the narrow, steep stone-lined alleyways toward the Alcazaba, the Moorish castle that crowns the hill. Its thick, rugged walls seem grown from the mountain itself, and from its battlements the panoramic view was staggering: rolling plains, the red roofs and towers of the town.

Along the climb, we stopped at ancient churches like Santa María la Mayor which was built on the remains of a former Moorish mosque, with the tombs of adventurers like Pizarro and Santiago.

I enjoyed my quiet time in this tranquil sanctuary, filled with carved retablos, weathered frescoes and a Gothic altarpiece, gilded with gold leaf.



The church of Santa María la Mayor.
(PHOTOS BY AUTHOR)

We dropped by at the monastery of Santa Maria de la Concepción, where cloistered nuns still sell almond biscuits and egg yolk sweets that they make. We rang a bell, gave our order to the nuns on the other side, and placed our money on a dumb waiter that rotated and gave us our order.

Culinary exploration

But Trujillo is not simply a monument to the past. In recent years, it has blossomed into one of rural Spain's most exciting gastronomic centres. The Dehesa, Extremadura's iconic landscape of open woodlands, grazing animals, and ancient oak trees produces flavours of great depth, and they are celebrated passionately in Trujillo. Here, restaurants and small taverns showcase artisanal cheese, fragrant olive oils and smoky pimenton as well as local pork from pigs fed with acorns.

Over lunch, I tasted the most important cheese here called Torta del Casar, a gooey sheep's milk cheese with a hard exterior, with an earthy, tangy flavour that has a history harking back to medieval times.

David explained that it was coagulated with a wild thistle which gives it that distinctive taste. Every spring, Trujillo hosts the National Cheese Festival which transforms Trujillo's Plaza Mayor, with over 300 stalls overflowing with wheels, rounds, and wedges, soft, hard, smoked and aged.

Culture of paradors

We dropped in at the Parador de Trujillo, set in the former Franciscan convent of Santa Clara founded in 1533, with arches, vaulted ceilings and courtyards. Paradors are state-run historic hotels across Spain that preserve castles, monasteries, palaces, and fortresses and give travellers the chance to stay in places steeped in history. Trujillo holds its history and traditions with pride; farmers still tend the dehesa, shepherds guide their flocks across fields, artisans craft cheese and olive oil with skills passed down through generations. As I watched the last sunset from the Plaza Mayor, the sky turning apricot, I felt the tranquillity of a place that honours its past while continuing to march into the future.

From the intriguingly named fish liver gin to a range of continental and Chinese dishes, the City of Joy is just the place to be if you are looking for unique preparations beyond the standard rosogolla, kathi rolls and jhalmuri, write Anurag Mallick and Priya Ganapathy

Only in Kolkata!

Fish liver gin at New Cathay.

Kolkata's culinary landscape was shaped by historical events. Founded in 1690 as a trading outpost, 'Calcutta' served as the capital of British India from 1772 to 1911. Nearly 150 years of colonial influence led to a new genre of 'club food' — fowl cutlets, fish chops, kabiraji cutlets, chicken stew and Continental fare like chicken a la Kiev and devilled crab. By the late 18th century, Chinese traders, tanners and shoemakers started pouring into Kolkata, which birthed Indian-Chinese cuisine in Chinatowns at Tiretta Bazaar and later, Tangra.

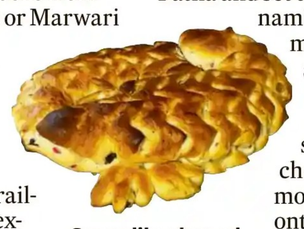
The exile of the Nawab of Oudh Wajid Ali Shah from Lucknow to Metiabruz introduced the potato to the biryani and infused the city's palate with Mughlai flavours. Be it Muslims from UP-Bihar, Odiya thakurs (cooks), mog cooks from Burma, Punjabi transporters or Marwari traders, each community enhanced the city's flavours. Beyond jhalmuri, rosogolla, kathi rolls and kosha mangsho, Kolkata boasts dishes unique to the city.

When the British built the railways and a shipping route to expand tea and Burma teak trade, they employed mogs, a community of Buddhists from the Arakan region who had migrated from Burma to Bengal. They picked up European flavours aboard the ships. Over time, this 'steamer cuisine' crept into Kolkata's colonial clubs. The Baruas of Bengal, who trace their ancestry to mog cooks, were employed in the households of babus who entertained British officials. And thus, mutton pantheras was born, a breaded cutlet of mutton mince filled with caramelised onions and raisins.

In 1935, some zamindars of North Kolkata started Theta-Feta Club and appointed cook Nakul Chandra Barua, who had just retired from the Great Eastern Hotel. When club culture waned after Independence, Barua started his own snack shop. His son Bidhubhushan Barua continued the business with his partner Phatik Chandra Dey, and today Barua and Dey is perhaps the only place in Kolkata serving mutton pantheras.

SALT & PEPPER

Adam's Kabab Shop on Phears Lane have been serving suta kebabs for over a century. No other eatery in Kolkata offers it. Mohammed Salahuddin says that his grandfather Subhani Miyan came from Patna and set up a kebab shop in 1918, naming it after his son Mohammed Adam. He used suta or soft cotton thread to bind the melt-in-your-mouth beef and mutton kebabs, skewered and grilled on charcoal. The thread is removed and the kebabs tumble onto the plate!

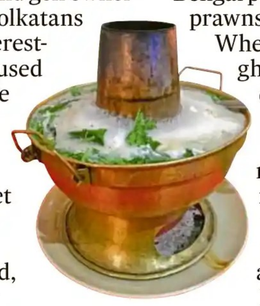


Crocodile-shaped bread at Imperial Bakers.

Fish patties are also popular at Imperial.

Chinese influence

Eau Chew, India's oldest family-run Chinese restaurant, began at Bow Barracks as a hostel for Chinese immigrants in 1922. Third generation owner Josephine recounts how her grandmother Chun pak-meh (aunty) started a tiny eatery with a set menu of soup, rice and Chinese staples. The name Eau Chew literally translates to 'Europe' in Mandarin as it catered to mostly British officers and clerks. Their chimney soup and Josephine noodles/rice is legendary! Formerly a Chinese eatery that opened in 1945, New Cathay is known for its weirdly named fish liver gin. Rectangular slices of batter fried bhetki are served with beans and carrots tossed in butter garlic. Second gen owner Abidur Rehman says that Kolkatans eat with their eyes first. Interestingly, there's no liver or gin used in the preparation; the name was coined by him as a bait to entice people.



Eau chew chimney soup.

Set up in 1874, Sir Stuart Hogg Market or New Market is a hub for bakeries. When the British were leaving India, many bakeries were sold, shut or handed over to their karigars (workers). Imperial Bakers and Confectioners is one of the few places doing fish bhetki patties since its founder Mohammed Yaqub's time. "Nobody else bakes our unique crocodile bread, a croc-shaped fruit bread," reveals third generation owner Asif. Chicken bharta is another specialty of Kolkata. Perhaps borrowed from Dhaka, the shredded chicken dish is cooked in a rich makhani sauce. Try it at Azad Hind Hotel or Sharma Dhaba at Ballygunge Circular Road. Gopal Chandra Saha came to Kolkata from Bangladesh as a 10-year-old. In a field dominated by pice hotels, he saw an opportunity for East Bengal cuisine and started Kasturi with just four tables in 1994; today it has 13 outlets across town. The star dish is kochupata chingri, an East Bengal preparation of colocasia leaf and prawns!

Where else will you find chicken Afghani cutlet at Sangu Valley, hans'er deem'er devil (devilled eggs using geese eggs) at Niranjan Agar, kabiraji cutlet at Bholanath Cabin, moghlai paratha at Anadi Cabin, mutton rizala at Sabir Hotel, tikia kebab at Shiraz Golden, or proprietary sweets — abarkhabo at Gupta Brothers, golabpak at Nepal Sweets and madhurpaka at Chittaranjan Mistanna Bhandar. Only in Kolkata!

(The authors are travel/food writers and culinary consultants "loosely based" in Bengaluru. They customise solutions for the hospitality industry, have authored guides and coffee table books, curated TV shows, set up an award-winning restaurant and are working on a book on heritage eateries of India. Follow their adventures on Instagram: @red_scarab)

SUMMER TREAT

Mango in falooda mood

With the summer heat troubling all of us, we need distractions of the yellow sort, don't we? And there isn't any yellow better than that of mangoes! The summer fruit's natural balance of sweetness and gentle tartness makes it perfect for experimentation in the kitchen, especially when it comes to cold desserts. Its pectin content aids in setting the dessert, while its natural sugars are ideal for caramelisation. From aamras to kulfi and sundaes, mangoes blend beautifully with traditional Indian desserts. Here is a mango falooda recipe that you can try out at home:

Maharaja mango kulfi falooda

To make kulfi Ingredients

- One litre of full-fat milk
- Four tbsp sugar (adjust to taste)
- One cup fresh mango pulp
- Five green cardamom pods (crushed)
- A few strands of saffron (optional)
- Two tbsp fresh cream

Steps

- Boil the milk by pouring it into a heavy-bottomed pan and bringing it to a boil over medium heat. Lower the heat and let it simmer, stirring frequently and scraping the sides to mix the cream back in. Continue until the milk reduces to about half – this gives kulfi its dense texture.
- For flavour and richness, add sugar, cardamom, saffron, and chopped nuts (optional). Mix well and cook for another 5-7 minutes. Stir in the fresh cream and cook for 2-3 more minutes, then turn off the heat.
- Let the mixture cool completely at room temperature. Once cooled, mix in the mango pulp and saffron milk. Pour into kulfi moulds or small cups, cover, and freeze for 6-8 hours or overnight until set.

For the falooda

Ingredients

- Custard – 50 ml
- Basil seeds – 10 g
- Semiya (vermicelli)–30 g
- Mango jelly – 20 g
- Fresh mango pieces – 100 g
- Mango kulfi – 80 g
- Whipped cream – one serving
- Mango crush – for garnish

Preparation

Add mango crush at the bottom of a glass. Layer with custard, followed by semiya (vermicelli). Add mango jelly over the semiya. Place the mango kulfi in the centre. Arrange fresh mango pieces around the kulfi. Top with whipped cream and drizzle mango crush over it to finish.

(Recipe & picture: Executive Chef Banshbahadur Nishad; Amara Timeless Indian Desserts)

Wellness

Leg cramps: When to see a doctor

Cramping in the legs is not always because of dehydration or fatigue. Sometimes, it could be a symptom of metabolic or cardiovascular issues. Timely monitoring and assessment of symptoms are of the essence, writes Dr Chirag D

Suffering from leg cramps? You may have dismissed it as a minor problem, blaming fatigue, dehydration and extended work hours. Stretching and massage are seen as solutions. However, frequent and intense cramps that disrupt sleep may indicate underlying medical problems such as cardiovascular or metabolic diseases.

In scenarios where you have had to stand for long hours or your body lacks enough fluids, you may suffer from muscle spasms. Night-time cramps and walking cramps need special treatment, depending on their severity. Cramps during exercise which disappear after rest indicate that blood circulation to the legs has been interrupted. Peripheral artery disease (PAD) occurs when blood flow to the limbs is affected because of narrowed arteries. The condition serves as an initial indication of an ongoing systemic atherosclerosis, which eventually affects both the heart and brain health.

An evaluation of symptoms is important because it is indicative of whether leg cramps result from natural ageing or muscle tiredness. The combination of walking cramps and limb heaviness accompanied by a feeling of numbness and a burning sensation indicates circulation problems rather than just muscle strain.

Peripheral artery disease occurs when there is inadequate flow of blood to the limbs owing to narrowed arteries.

Role of blood pressure

Uncontrolled high blood pressure leads to gradual damage of blood vessels through extended periods of time. Arterial stiffness and narrowing result in reduced blood supply to peripheral muscles which then leads to cramping.

People who have had chronic hypertension may not be able to correlate their leg pain to their vascular system because they are largely unaware of the link between leg cramps and vascular health.

The two key risks for diabetes mellitus patients include nerve damage and blood circulation-related problems. Diabetic neuropathy causes people to experience unusual muscle sensations such as tingling and spasms while vascular problems decrease the oxygen distribution to body tissues, causing muscle cramps.

Electrolyte imbalances, although not often identified as the cause, can also lead to muscle cramps. The right balance of potassium, calcium and magnesium is important because these minerals control the ability of the muscles to contract and relax. When cramps persist even after adequate intake of fluids and food, the problem can be attributed to causes other than mineral shortage.

Night cramps and cardiac clues

Older adults commonly suffer from leg cramps at night. Although this is usually not indicative of any major health risks, multiple episodes may indicate venous insufficiency or early vascular compromise.

Heart dysfunction causes fluid imbalance which leads to muscle cramps in some situations. The pattern of leg cramps together with their frequency and their related symptoms determine their relation to heart disease. A swelling in the legs, along with skin discolouration, cold extremities (hands and feet) and non-healing wounds are red flags that indicate circulatory problems.

Lifestyle patterns

Inactive or sedentary lifestyles can have a negative impact on the vascular system. There are blood flow problems when you sit for extended periods, resulting in muscle stiffness and fatigue. The vascular system faces additional stress from dehydration, excessive caffeine consumption, smoking, and unhealthy eating habits. People who start intense workouts suddenly without proper training experience muscle cramps. Engaging in regular moderate exercise is important; avoid extreme physical inactivity and excessive workout sessions because both result in muscle pain.

When to seek evaluation

Recurring leg cramps should not be treated as normal, especially when cramping persists for a long periods or turns severe. Cramps that occur at the slightest exertion, cause sleep disturbance, and limit mobility require medical evaluation. The first assessment lets medical professionals detect vascular constriction, metabolic deficiencies, and drug-related adverse effects that need treatment.

Muscle spasms also occur because blood pressure medications, diuretic drugs or cholesterol-related drugs impact electrolyte levels. Dose adjustments and supportive treatments help alleviate symptoms of cramping.

Reading subtle signals

The body communicates through subtle signals — leg cramps may serve as an early warning sign for circulatory system problems. Analysis of cramping, its duration and the relief methods helps in gaining insights required for treatment. Persistent cramps should not be treated as normal effects of ageing or fatigue. Regular screenings which include blood pressure monitoring, proper dietary practices, adequate water intake and consistent physical activity are important.

(The author is a consultant - interventional cardiology at a Bengaluru hospital.)

HEALTH IN THE HEADLINES

Cervical cancer: Why screening matters

DR ANEETA TALWAR

Cervical cancer is largely preventable through vaccination, detectable through screening, and treatable, when identified early. There's a significant screening gap in India. The country has nearly one-fifth of the global burden of cervical cancer cases. In 2022, there were 1,27,000 new cases and 80,000 deaths, according to Global Cancer Observatory.

Despite efforts to increase awareness about gynaecological cancers, low screening coverage remains the biggest gap. According to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019 - 2021), only 22 - 30 per cent of Indian women have undergone screening, way below the WHO's goal of 70 per cent coverage for women by the ages of 35 and 45.

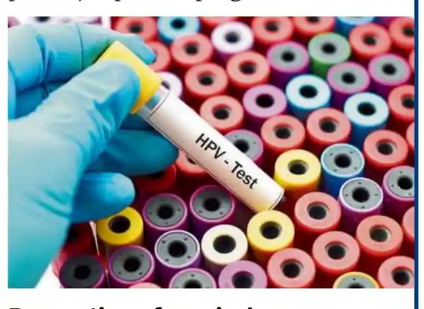
Gaps in routine PAP smear screening

While HPV vaccination, which has now become a mandate for all girls under 14 years, is a major step forward, it is important to recognise that vaccines are prophylactic, not therapeutic. They don't eliminate existing HPV infections or treat established precancerous lesions, leaving a large cohort of adult women at continued risk.

Adding to this are deep rooted sociocultural stigma around gynaecological cancers, rural access gaps, and limited diagnostic ability that further push women to suffer in silence instead of seeking help. There is also an over-reliance on Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA), which is practical but less sensitive than HPV DNA testing. While the WHO 2021 guidelines recommend HPV DNA testing as the preferred method for cervical cancer screening, its adoption in India remains limited.

Cervical cancer has a long pre-invasive phase, making it ideal for detection during routine screening. The disease progresses from HPV infection to the precancerous stage called Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia (CIN) before developing into invasive cancer after many years. Not many Indian women opt for routine health checks, which leads to a delay in diagnosis with limited treatment options.

Screening can also detect pre-cancer, not just cancer. Pap smear or HPV testing identifies pre-invasive lesions, enabling treatment before cancer develops while reducing incidence and mortality rates. When detected early, cervical cancer has excellent survival outcomes. The WHO emphasises screening with immediate treatment of pre-cancer (screen-and-treat approach) to prevent progression.

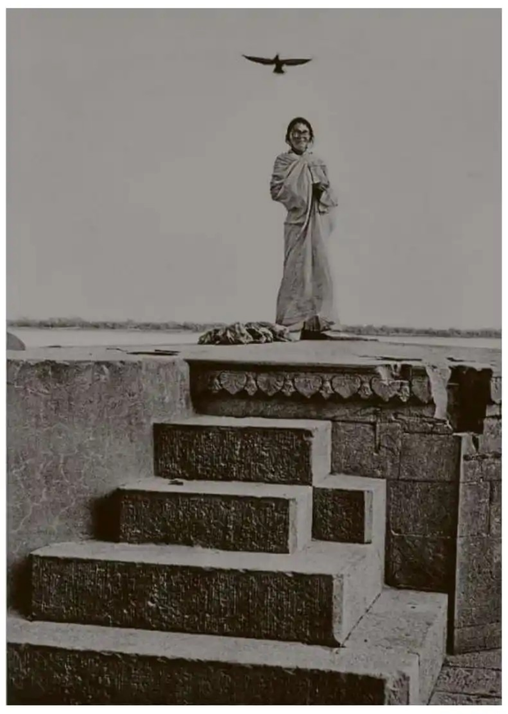


Prevention of cervical cancer

There are three strategic approaches to preventing cervical cancer. Primary prevention focuses on the prevention of HPV infection before it occurs through HPV vaccine to girls between the ages of 9 and 14, ideally before they are sexually active. Safe sexual practices and health education are also important to prevent incidences.

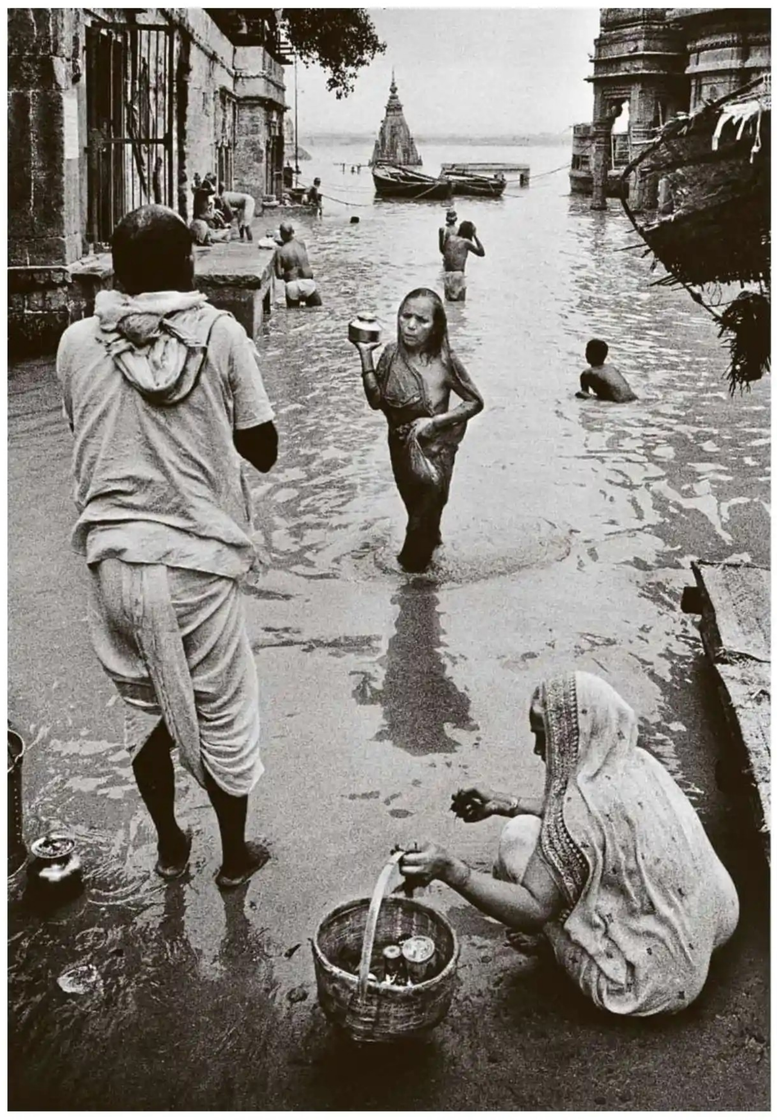
Secondary prevention focuses on the pre-cancerous phase through screening methods like HPV DNA testing, pap smears, or visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) for women between the ages of 30 and 49. It is followed by a screen-and-treat protocol that uses interventions like loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP) or cryotherapy. Tertiary prevention manages established cancer with stage-specific treatments including surgical interventions or chemo radiation, structured follow-up protocols to monitor for recurrence and palliative care (HIPEC/PIPAC - chemotherapy treatments) for advanced cases, as clinically indicated.

(The author is consultant - obstetrics and gynaecology at a Bengaluru hospital.)



LENSCRAFT

Pushkar V pays a photographer's tribute to Raghu Rai, who wore his genius lightly while teaching generations to see and to understand why every frame matters



The eye that framed India

India's visual memory of the last 60 years, from the power corridors in Delhi to the dust and smoke in Bhopal, is impossible to imagine without Raghu Rai. His photographs turned news into history and everyday life into something unforgettable.

Born in 1942 in Jhang in undivided Punjab, his path into photography was accidental. He was trained as a civil engineer, but a single picture of a donkey he had clicked got published in *The Times* in London, pushing him toward the camera instead. His older brother, the photographer S Paul, had planted the seed, guiding him to look at ordinary streets with patience.

He joined *The Statesman* in 1966, and Henri Cartier-Bresson later nominated him to Magnum Photos in 1977, making Rai the first Indian to enter the legendary cooperative.

India through his lens

Rai's career unfolded in parallel with India's turbulent decades. He covered the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, the Emergency, the Bhopal gas tragedy, unrest in Kashmir and countless elections, protests and pilgrimages. His pictures are full of layers, people, animals, walls, smoke, sky and emotions all held together in a single frame that somehow never feels crowded. Raghu Rai's photograph, 'Burial of an Unknown Child', had a deep impact; the image came to define the tragedy itself and became an enduring hallmark of his work, having a lasting effect globally in street demonstrations and justice campaigns on behalf of the victims.

From Raghu Rai's Delhi, Mumbai and Calcutta to books on the Taj Mahal, the Sikhs, Tibet in exile and Indian classical music, each body of work felt like a carefully curated exposure. In Hampi, his book Vijayanagara Empire: Ruins to Resurrection turns boulders, temples and scattered carvings into a living stage where light and shadow play across stones. He revisited the site to deepen the project; it was a landscape where his compositions themselves became a form of excavation.

A few pics clicked by Rai. (ALL PICS COURTESY: THE DAG COLLECTION)

Icons and ordinary people

Rai became equally known for his portraits as for his street work. He photographed Indira Gandhi across her political life, producing some of the most reproduced frames of any Indian prime minister. He made celebrated books on Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama and captured famous personalities such as M S Subbulakshmi, Bismillah Khan, and Bhimsen Joshi mid-performance.

His portraits of writers and actors, including Girish Karnad and R K Laxman, sit alongside labourers and children in city lanes, underlining his belief that the same intensity must run through every frame.

"When I take a person's portrait, I am trying to capture the aura of that person," he once wrote, insisting he wants "the truth of that person to emerge in the photographs."

Through Magnum, Rai's India travelled far beyond its borders. His photo essays appeared in leading international magazines, and he was commissioned by *National Geographic*.

Within Magnum and world photo circles, he helped prove that Indian photojournalism could carry the same weight as any global work.

He also served on the juries of World Press Photo and UNESCO's international photo contest, and his path helped open the way for Sohrab Hura, who later became only the second Indian to join Magnum. Rai worked alongside the legendary Sebastiao Salgado and Graciela Iturbide on India–Mexico projects, and writers on photography note that Steve McCurry counts Cartier-Bresson and Rai among those who shaped his way of seeing, a sign of how far Rai's influence travelled.

Impossible to copy

Rai's style is rooted in patient observation. He used prime and wide-angle lenses to hold several moments in a single frame, shifted to tight close-ups when a face carried the whole story and worked at short shooting distances instead of hiding behind long telephoto glass. His frames look so simple that it feels like anyone can take that image, but the timing, tonality and balance of foreground and background make them almost impossible to copy.

Raghu Rai at a photo exhibition in Delhi in 2021. (PTI FILE PIC)

Most of his renowned work was made on film in black and white. He often spoke of the romance of the analogue era. In one interview, he said photography is his profession, his religion, his karma, "it is my life." There is an ocean of his work, and he spent years digitising and organising his negatives into categories.

Family and later years

His son Nitin is a photographer, his daughter Avani directed the documentary, 'Raghu Rai, An Unframed Portrait', and his second daughter Purvai runs a photography magazine. Exhibitions in London, Paris, New York, Tokyo and Sydney carried his India abroad even as he continued to travel on assignments across Europe, America and Southeast Asia. His influence is visible in young Indian photographers who document social issues and street life, composing frames with empathy.

Among his many honours are the Padma Shri in 1971 and the inaugural Académie des Beaux-Arts Photography Award-William Klein in 2019, recognising a lifetime of work.

Raghu Rai once said that if a photograph captures the depth of an experience with honesty, "then the camera has served its purpose." His pictures of refugees, gas victims, musicians and street vendors do exactly that. As a photographer myself, it is hard to keep a narrative distance when writing about him, but the truth is simple: he truly inspired me.

The author is a photojournalist with this publication.
(For more pics, browse through raghuraifoundation.org)

POT-POURRI

Questioning the classical canon

Two recent sessions in Bengaluru examined the ways in which traditional art is built, taught, and questioned, showing how structure and form change over time, writes Kumudha Chandrasekaran

The more our perception of art grows and evolves in a contemporary context, the more imperative it becomes to engage in rigorous dialogue on its fundamental constructs. Such conversations not only redefine but also demystify our understanding of essentials like form, structure, practice and process.

Two forums in March turned their attention to the foundational grammar of Indian classical arts. A seminar by musician T M Krishna on form, structure and creativity, hosted by Bijayini Satpathy, and a lecture-demonstration by danseuse Malavika Sarukkai at the Bangalore International Centre invited audiences to engage more closely with what lies beneath performance. While the subject warrants day-long discussions and long-form writing, even a slice of these interactions revealed an intricate warp and weft of ideas on classical art forms.

In a preamble to his talk, Krishna acknowledged two prevailing tendencies. On one end, critical discussions, limited as they are, often remain within comfort zones. On the other hand, there exists a view that nothing matters beyond the art itself, whether or not it adheres to form or structure.

He moved through his talk methodically: defining terms, illustrating them with examples, and then building a critical argument through questions. He described 'form' as a cohesiveness that offers definition, not just externally in appearance but internally in intention. Structure, he said, consists of multiple building blocks, such as laya, that together create this cohesive form. These components must be understood deeply before they can be questioned; training, rigour and repetition are therefore indispensable.

Drawing from his research into the history of ragas, he pointed to the stark differences between how a raga

T M Krishna (DH ARCHIVES)

is imagined and rendered today and how it appears in older descriptive notations often treated as authoritative. Reflecting on his own practice, he questioned what binds the Thodi ragam of the past to the Thodi he performs today. He concluded that these cohesive threads have not only shifted but, in some cases, been lost — through homogenisation, erasure and systemic oppression. Evolution, then, is not always organic; form can become a function of habit. As Frederick Matthias Alexander observed, what we are accustomed to often feels right.

Krishna also noted how engaging with historical texts unsettled his own sensibility. For him, challenging, altering, disrupting and even dismantling the notion of form is intrinsic to being in dialogue with it. He argued that our education system rarely teaches us how to question responsibly, and that the act of questioning itself must be practised. Doubt, in this sense, is not an antagonistic aspect but essential to understanding structure.

If Krishna's session interrogated music from within its conceptual scaffolding, Sarukkai's lecture-demonstration offered a tactile entry into the inner workings of dance. Framed as an invitation to look "into" dance rather than merely "at" it, her session explored nritta and abhinaya as primary constructs that shape both external space and inner experience.

She began with the complex mathematics embedded in nritta, an aspect not often foregrounded in Bharatanatyam discourse. Breaking down a korappu — a progressive rhythmic descent — she revealed the layered precision within performance. Through excerpts from her work Sthiti Gati, which explores the coexistence of stillness and movement, she spoke about choreography as a process of deliberate choice. From infinite possibilities of interpretation, visualisation, movement and music, the artist crafts an experience patiently and with intent.

Abhinaya, with its potential and precision, emerged vividly as she dissected a verse from the Naachiyaar Thirumozhi, evoking the layered emotional world of Andal. What the audience ultimately sees is a finished whole, but Sarukkai carefully revealed the layers that build towards that experience. In doing so, she renewed a sense of wonder around the familiar, showing how classical arts continue to offer depth when approached attentively.

In her closing reflections, she spoke of how, with patience, the seemingly rigid grid of form and structure begins to loosen. She described manodharma not merely as improvisation but as a state of being — one where discipline settles so deeply within the artist that it becomes effortless.

Across both sessions, a shared impulse emerged: to look within the form rather than accept it at face value. Whether through questioning inherited structures or inhabiting them with greater awareness, both artists suggested that the familiar can still yield new, compelling perspectives when engaged with rigour.

Malavika Sarukkai during a performance. (DH ARCHIVES)

MUSEUM MATTERS

In the hall of impossible things

From billion-year-old diamonds to cosmic debris, Washington DC's Natural History Museum compresses the universe into one breathtaking journey, says Riddhi Doshi

Enter, gasp, and, oh my God, there it is: the 100-foot-long, 150-million-year-old dinosaur *Diplodocus hallorum*. At the centre of the building stands a 13-ton, imposing taxidermy of the African bush elephant; in another hall, a 45-foot-long North Atlantic right whale. I am at one of the most awe-inspiring museums in the world. The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC is enthralling, to say the least. There is wonder everywhere you look. Its 146 million specimens — plants, animals, fossils, minerals, rocks, meteorites, and human artefacts — make you realise how tiny we are in the larger scheme of things, and how beautifully engineered the natural world is, from deep within the Earth to far beyond the sky. Its gemstone, jewellery, and meteorite collections are especially impressive.

The facade of the grand museum.

The 13-ton, imposing taxidermy of the African bush elephant.

Established in 1910, the museum's biggest marvel has to be the Hope Diamond. This 45.52-carat deep-blue gem is the largest of its kind in the world. Its rare colour, described by the Gemological Institute of America as "fancy dark greyish-blue", comes from trace amounts of boron in its crystal structure.

Formed roughly 1.1 billion years ago, it was mined in Guntur during the Mughal Empire. It glows like a tiny star, hypnotic in its brilliance. Encased in a rotating glass capsule, it is perpetually surrounded by awe-struck viewers. The diamond alone is worth braving the crowds at this museum, which attracts about four million visitors annually, making it the most visited in the United States.

Hard as it is to walk away, the museum offers more treasures within its 1.5-million-square-foot Beaux-Arts building, marked by a Roman-style dome, green roof, and granite façade.

Another standout is the Logan Sapphire, one of the world's largest faceted blue sapphires at 423 carats. Originating in Sri Lanka, the cushion-cut gem is set in a brooch surrounded by 20 brilliant-cut diamonds. Then there's the Hooker Emerald, a 75.47-carat Colombian emerald once owned by Sultan Abdul Hamid II, and the extraordinary Dom Pedro Aquamarine, a 10,363-carat, two-kilo obelisk carved by German master cutter Bernd Munsteiner.

Next door lies America's national meteorite collection. While India's is tucked away in Kolkata, Washington DC houses around 50,000 specimens, about 20,000 of them distinct space rocks from individual sources.

This gallery overturns assumptions. Meteorites, it turns out, aren't always small. The Old Woman meteorite, found in California's Mojave Desert, weighs about 440 kilos. There are Martian and lunar samples too, including Allan Hills 84001, once at the centre of debates about ancient life on Mars. A highlight is the Allende meteorite, which fell in Mexico in 1969. A Type III carbonaceous chondrite, it contains calcium-aluminium inclusions — among the oldest materials in our solar system — offering direct evidence of the nebula that formed the sun and planets. Then there's the Tucson Ring, an iron meteorite that looks like a man-made metal sculpture and was once used as a blacksmith's anvil.

Another exhibit that surprises is a gogotte, a rare sandstone concretion that resembles a cluster of overlapping mushrooms or a miniature tree.

Formed about 30 million years ago in northern France, these shapes emerged when silica-rich water filtered through dunes, binding grains over time. Prized as natural art, they were collected by figures such as King Louis XIV and Napoleon.

Every object here unravels mysteries that humans have spent centuries trying to understand. Step back, and the museum itself becomes a monument to human curiosity, persistence, and our relentless quest to make sense of the world.

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BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE- BDA-AVAILABLE/ WANTED 20x30, 30x40 40x60, 50x80 SITES. BRINDAVAN ASSOCIATES-9980863245/ 9945333993

BDA SITE For Sale Banashankari 6th Stage 7th Block 40x60 E/F Anjanapura 7th Block 30x40 S/F: 9964627255

Bannerghatta Road

SHIVANAHALLI RAMAKRISHNA ASHRAM Attach 3.4 Acers 8Cr. Akshayangr 52x72 SEC 14000/-, 50x97 SF 12000/- 6361162072

Electronic City

"ELECTRONIC CITY 30x40 DC.conversion E-Katha, Gated`Community 38`Sites`Sale total`1.5`acres with`Basic Amenities, Bank`Loan Available, Ready`for Registration near`VIBGYOR School, 1.75kms`from Hosa Road, Metro Station. 9620424103/ 9448670671"

Jakkur

SITE FOR SALE/ BUYING Arkavathi, Telecom, MCECHS, JAKKUR, SAHAKARNAGAR Vidayranypura, KODIGEHALLI 40x60, 30x40, 20x30: 9449970278

SITE FOR SALE 30x40 West Face GKVK LAYOUT JAKKUR (Prime Location) Price 18000/- Per SFT Negotiable 7760623953

Kempegowda Layout

BDA SITE for Sale Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout 40x60 1st block H Sector Near 330 feet PRR Road South, Broker Excuse Genuine buyers only: 9591307071

KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Commercial/ Residential BDA Site for Sale 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Contact Kumar 9945119449.

Mysore Road

"BMRDA 30X42 East Hejjala ₹3650/-Sft,, 40x60 West Bidadi ₹2300/-Sft,, 50x80 Big Banyan Tree ₹2200/-Sft. 9845178335"

Nelamangala

BYRASHETTYHALLI AISHWARYA County BMRDA 40X60,East And Banashankari BDA 30X40,Sites For Sale : 9620117773/9845857006

Out-Station

FOR SALE One Acre Plots on 4 lane Bengalaru- Gokarna Highway For Eco stays and resort 12 Km To Nirvana beach 20 Km to Gokarna Contact number-6353237838

R T Nagar

ANANDNAGAR HEBBAL 1550 sft Site area with old Duplex House Car Parking BDA Approved 9341260828

Vijayanagar

PRIME LOCATION SITE SALE 60x90 WEST FACING WOC ROAD RPC LAYOUT VIJAYANAGAR CONTACT: 9845038343/ 6363250343

Vishweshwariah Layout

DIRECT OWNER 30x40 Site Sale VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 2nd Block near 100 feet-road, Opposite-Park. ₹11250/-. 9742681666

"VISVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 6th Block near KLE Law College 50x80 North 80 feet Road, 100% Vasthu. 9448432633"

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SALE AT KUMBALAGODU . TWO 30x40 WEST FACING ADJACENT SITES. BDA A-KHATHA. READY TO BUILD. LAYOUT ATTACHED TO SERVICE ROAD. CALL 9900049591 OR 9900094871

'EXCELLENT KUMBALGODU Industrial sites 100x200 near Challaghatta Metro Rs. 5500/- per Sqft for immediate Settlement Contact: Mahesh: 9341828282'

Magadi Road

D GROUP Layout 30x40 WF, 3rd Block, Andrahalli, Magadiroad, Near 60ft Road, Beside Corner 16,000/- PSFT 9739957911

House

Bannerghatta Road

BANNERGHATTA ROAD Hulimavu Near Minakshi Mall, 30x40, 2 BHK 5 unit, 1 BHK 4'unit,'Rental income new'Building 3,70,00,000/- 9739995042

HBR Layout

HOUSE FOR Sale, Built in 40x60, BDA Site, HBR Layout, GF 3 BHK FF 4 BHK SF 2 BHK. Clear Title. Brokers Excuse. Contact:- 9448006763.

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JAYANAGAR 4TH T Block 2520sft, 2080sft, 990sft, 700sft, good Residential location (Genuine buyers only)-9845144365

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Vishweshwariah Layout

SMV 3RD Block 1598 East 20x30 House 13500000 Negotiable, Kempegowda 1st Attach, Kodigehalli Main Road Commercial 30x40 Corner 10,000/- Revenue E Katha 9845793121

Vidyaranyapura

INDEPENDENT 60'X40' 4 BHK Duplex BEL Layout 2nd Stage S/F- Prime Location 16500/- sq.ft: 9844264852

Budigere

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BHARATHNAGAR BEL Layout Sale 30x53, North Door, Duplex House , 4BHK, 3 Floors. Contact. 9741157424.

Nagarabhavi

BDA 20X20 G+2 Building NF Pattegarapalya, Nagarabhavi, 69 Lakhs Direct Owner 9740073482

Flat

Banashankari

"PREMIUM FLAT Sobha Clovelly Padmanabhanagar 3BHK 2250 Sqft ₹3.85 Crore "Sri.Ganesh Estates" 9845286505"

BTM Layout

BTM 2ND Stage Near Silk Board Metro 2BHK Flat 1200 sft, woodwork, Sale 80,00,000/- 9845094369

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Seshadripuram

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Yelahanka

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General

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Tumkur

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General

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N-EAST FACING site 2800 sqft 4sale in Rmmurthy Ngr behind Vibgyor. Govind :6281399583;8317399198

Industrial & Factory

Tumkur Road

KIADB CONVERTED: Prime Industrial Land for sale. 50,000 sqft in Vasanthanrasapura Industrial area situated in NH4, Tumkur Road, East facing. Rate 2500/- psqft Negotialbe. Serious buyers contact:- Arif Khan:- 9845021260.

9.5 ACRES. Sale/ Built to Suite. Industrial Converted Land Suitable for Industry/ Warehouse/ Education. 9141326819

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Sites

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BDA SITES WANTED ARKAVATI ANJANAPURA BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE VISHWESHWARAIAH KEMPEGOWDA ANY BDA LAYOUT: 9845062822/ 8660751654

Jayanagar

WANTED 40X60 Site/ House in JAYANAGAR IV 'T' Block/ NAL Layout. Contact. RAPHAEL: 9343728200.

Kanakapura Road

WANTED SITE 40x60 30x40 BCCHS LAYOUT NARAYANNAGAR BANASHANKARI 6th STAGE, ANJANAPURA KANAKAPURA ROAD BROKER EXCUSE. Call 9663454878.

Vishweshwariah Layout

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Email: **info@rjspucollege.edu.in**
Website: **www.rjspucollege.edu.in**

Transport Facilities / Scholarship Opportunities

KARNATAKA REDDYJANA SANGHA SCHOOLS

www.rjsschools.edu.in

D.B.M. & R.J.S High School

Call: 080 2553 1125 | 90352 44614 / 616 / 618
Email: principalrjs@gmail.com
#16th B Main, Near Koramangala 3rd Block, Bengaluru-34

SSLC TOPPERS 2025-26

VRINDA RAJESH CHINNANNAVAR
1ST TOPPER (96.16%)

R YASHASWINI
2ND TOPPER (96.00%)

ISUKALA SUSENA
3RD TOPPER (94.40%)

R.J.S HIGH SCHOOL

Call: 90352 44616
Email: roopenaagrahararjs@gmail.com
NGR Layout, Roopena Agrahara, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-68

R.J.S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Call: 90352 44618
Email: rjs560037@gmail.com
Madagadamma Temple Street, Shanbogh Layout, Doddanekkundi, Bengaluru-37

- Well-equipped Classrooms
- Resourceful Library
- Laboratories
- Olympiad Programs
- STEM and Robotics Learning
- Personality Development Programs

CLASSES: Nursery to 10th, State Board English Medium

Classifieds

More value, more impact

JNANAPEETA EDUCATIONAL TRUST (R)

JNANAVAHINI PUBLIC SCHOOL

5th Main Road, 3rd Block, Nandini Layout, Opp. to Dr. Raj Punya Bhumi, Ring Road, Bangalore-96.

VAANI INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

No. 10, 1st Main Road, Vidhana Soudha Layout, Lakshmidevinagar, Bangalore-560 058.

WE CONGRATULATE S.S.L.C TOPPERS 2025-26

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR 2026-27

RAKSHA .S 609/97.44% | SAMSKRUTHI 608/97.28% | VARSHA .R 606/97

PUNITH .I.K 604/97% | SANJEEV .M 602/96.32%

CHETHAN A.B 594/95.04% | THANUSHREE .B 594/95.04% | AKRITI SHUKLA .A 593/95.00% | TANMAYEN .D 592/95.00% | THEJAS A.K 592/95.00% | CHAITHANYA .H 591/95.00% | MANASA .T 590/94.40% | CHANDUSHREE .S 589/94.24% | GOWTHAMI .S BAGARE 589/94.24% | KEERTHI .M.S 587/94.00%

JHANAVI .K 586/94.00% | KRUTHI .K 586/94.00% | SHREYA .H.M 586/94.00% | SRINIDHI R NADAGOUD 584/93.44% | SUJAY BHUSHAN 579/93.00% | SRUSTI .H 575/92.00% | NANDHITHA .M 567/91.00% | SINCHANA .P 567/91.00% | PRIYA .M 565/90.40% | SAIRA BEE BEE 561/90.00%

MANASA .B 559/89.44% | LAKSHMI .G.K 557/89.12% | TRISHANTH .H 554/89.00% | PRAJWAL .L 553/88.48% | JEEVITHA .K.M 547/88.00% | VARSHA .M 539/86.24% | MOHAN GOWDA .H.S 532/85.12% | ANVY ARADHYA .V 531/85.00% | PRAJWAL .K GOWDA 531/85.00% | GAGAN RAJ .D 530/85.00%

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LOURDES HIGH SCHOOL

NANDINI LAYOUT BENGALURU -560 096

BHAVANA M.R. 614 - 98.24%

The Management & Staff Congratulates SSLC Toppers -2025-26

AYESHA 612 - 97.92% | LEEPTHI RAJ R 609 - 97.44% | KISHAN KUMAR S 605 - 96.8% | DEEPAK H.N. 605 - 96.8% | S. SUHA 604 - 96.64% | B.M. SUCHITRA 603 - 96.48% | MAHESH B. 603 - 96.48% | SINCHANA M 598 - 95.68%

MAHEEDHAR S. 591 - 94.56% | AZMA 589 - 94.24% | HEMANTH G. 580 - 92.8% | SUMAIYA 579 - 92.64% | AKSHAY GOWDA A 579 - 92.64% | LAVANYA J 576 - 92.16% | RASHEED S 570 -91.2% | KEERTHI R. 568 - 90.88%

HARSHINI G. 567 - 90.72% | SACHIN K. 566 - 90.56% | RASHMI H.B. 560 - 89.6% | H. YAMINI 553 - 88.48% | MADAN G.R. 550 - 88.00% | PARVESH T 549 - 87.84% | KISHORE P. 541 - 86.56% | CHITRA M. 539 - 86.24%

PAVAN D. 536 - 85.76% | RESHMA N.V. 536 - 85.76% | YOGESH KRISHNA.S 535 - 85.6% | ESHWARI SELVARAJ 535 - 85.6% | BHUVAN BENITO 533 - 85.28% | GHOUSIA B. 532 - 85.12%

DISTINCTION 31 STUDENTS
1st CLASS 51 STUDENTS
2nd CLASS 2 STUDENTS

With Best Wishes
Mr. Maria Sunder Secretary

AUDEN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Affiliated to CISCE, New Delhi. (KA084)
17, Girinagar II Phase, Bengaluru-560 085

Management & Staff Congratulates

School Topper **The Toppers of Class X ICSE 2025-26**

SANJANA S RAVI 99.40 %

ABHIRAM SHASTRY D P 98.80 %

SAANIKA J 98.80 %

HITHASHREE J 97.60 %

SNEHA SHEKAR 97.60 %

TAMALAMPUDI MAHALAKSHMI PRANAVI 97.60 %

SHAILESH C 97.40 %

PRADHYUMNA KASHYAP 97 %

TANISHA S 97 %

TANVI PATIL 96.80 %

CHIRANTH C KASHYAP 96.60 %

PRATHITH NANDAN 96.60 %

NEERAJ DESAI 96.40 %

VENKATA ASHRITH ALVAKONDA 96.40 %

YUKTA K 96.40 %

CHARAKH M 96.20 %

ADVIKA NAYANA GOWDA 96 %

GOKUL SUBHASH P V 96 %

NAGASIRI BHUSHAN 95.80 %

VISMITA G 95.80 %

SMRUTHI S KARKERA 95.40 %

SHREYA A B 95 %

AKSHAY H 95 %

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

CONTACT: 080-26721901, 78992 33336

ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಹೈಸ್ಕೂಲ್ INDIAN HIGH SCHOOL

7204619551 / 7204610559 / 7284610568

*ENTRUST *EMPOWER *ENLIGHTEN

Basaveshwarnagar, Manjunathanagar, Kamalanagara, Shivanagara

The Management * Staff Congratulates S.S.L.C. Toppers 2025-26

613 SURAJ KUMAR | 603 USHARANI.H | 601 MITHUN RAO.N | 599 VASANTH KUMAR.M | 599 SAMARTH.M GOWDA | 597 DEEPIKA PATEL | 596 PRATHIKSHA.L | 606 RAIYAN AHMED.F

594 NEERAJ.R | 591 MONICA.M.H | 585 NIKSHITH.G | 582 KRISHNA PATANGE | 581 GAGAN.D | 580 BINDU.H.N | 577 LIKITH.K.M | 576 DILIP SIRVI | 575 TEJENDRA.P | 571 INCHANA.K | 568 DIYA.R | 564 MANISHA.P

564 CHANDRAKANTH.P | 560 HARSHITHA.B | 557 RAKESH.S | 556 G.R. KRUTHIKA | 554 MEGHANA.K | 553 TANISHA.C | 551 SRUJAN.N | 551 SAMARTH.M. ACHARYA | 548 AMRUTHA.M | 547 PRIYANKA.K | 543 KOUSHIK.G.S | 543 SONAL.S.POOJARY

539 KEERTHANA.N | 538 NIKHIL YANE.B.S. RAGHAVENDRA | 534 SAANVI.C.ACHARYA | 531 HAMSA.U | 530 YASHWITHA.Y | 529 SHEVASHREE.G.C | 529 SAJNI.L.M | 528 CHETHAN.R | 527 VEDA.S | 524 LALITH.K.CHOUDHARY | 524 VIJAY.K.T | 522 SANIKA.P

519 CHIRAG.L.CHOUDHARY | 519 HARINI.A | 516 VAIBHAV.V.NAGDA | 512 NIKHIL.M | 510 NAKUL.H.K | 510 LEKHANA.H.K | 510 YASHASWI.V | 508 DISHALI.U | 508 SHEETHAL.M.GOWDA | 507 HEMANTH.S | 502 OVIYASHREE.B | 502 VARSHINI.H

ARUNODAYA IND PUC COLLEGE

MARIYAPPANAPALAYA NEAR AMMASHRAM ARCH BANGALORE - 56

II PUC EXAMINATION FOR 2025-26.

98% MAHALAKSHMI H RAO | 96% MEHANZ

95% KAVYA C.N | 95% BHOOMIKA.R | 95% MANOJ.S | 90% AZEEZ UR REHAMAN | 88% SNEHA.R | 87% RABIYA BEGUM | 85% JASMINE R

85% SNEHA SHREE | 84% RAMYA.R | 83% HAJIRA NIDA | 80% YOGESH M.S | 79% MOHAMMAD REEHAN | 78% JAYASHREE.R | 77% MOHAMMED MUYEEN PASHA

77% ARBIYA MADIHA | 74% POORNIMA.G | 73% JEEVITHA | 73% ARCHANA | 70% SUSHMA | 70% PRIYANKA.P | 62% MEENAKSHI | 62% NANDINI.S

ESTD. 1980

ಗುರುಕುಲ ಇಂಟರ್‌ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್ ಸ್ಕೂಲ್

ನರ್ಸರಿ, ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ, ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆ

೨ನೇ ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ಮಾಗಡಿರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-೨೩

ADMISSION OPEN 2026-27

Pre Nursery to Grade 10

ಬಡವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಧ್ಯಮ ವರ್ಗದವರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ವಾಸಿಸುವ ಈ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣವನ್ನು ನೀಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಆಶಯದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಎಜುಕೇಷನ್ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ ಆಡಳಿತಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ನಂಜುಂಡಯ್ಯನವರು (ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಪ್ರಾಂಶುಪಾಲರು) ಕೆ.ಇ.ಎಸ್. ಕಾನ್ವೆಂಟ್ ಎಂಬ ಹೆಸರಿನ ಮೂಲಕ ಈ ಶಾಲೆಯನ್ನು 1980ರಲ್ಲಿ 60 ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದರು. ಈಗ 2000 (ಎರಡು ಸಾವಿರ) ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಈ ನಮ್ಮ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ನಮ್ಮ ಶಾಲೆ 2008-09ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ "ಗುರುಕುಲ ಇಂಟರ್‌ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್ ಶಾಲೆ" ಎಂಬ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅನುಮತಿ ಪಡೆದಿದೆ.

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣವನ್ನು ನೀಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಪೂರ್ವಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷ್ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮಕ್ಕೆ N.C.E.R.T ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾಂಟೆಸರಿ Methodology of teaching ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ಲೇಡೋ ವಿಧಾನವನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಬೋಧನೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

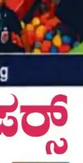
ಸತತವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷವು ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಶೇಕಡಾ 100ರಷ್ಟು ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ ತಂದುಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಕೆಲವು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು 100ಕ್ಕೆ 100ರಷ್ಟು ಅಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ರ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಪಡೆದು ಶಾಲೆಯ ಕೀರ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಶಾಲೆ ಸೇರಿದ್ದು ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ 85%ಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ 100ರಷ್ಟು ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ ತಂದುಕೊಟ್ಟ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೆ ಶಾಲಾ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕೋತ್ಸವದಂದು ಸನ್ಮಾನಿಸಿ ಗೌರವಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 95% ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅಂಕ ಪಡೆದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಪೋಷಕರನ್ನು ಸಹ ಸನ್ಮಾನಿಸಿ ಗೌರವಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ. ಟಾಪರ್ಸ್ - 2026

STATE 10TH RANK

STATE 11TH RANK

STATE 12TH RANK



CROWNED WITH STATE RANK DISTINCTION FIRST CLASS NO SECOND CLASS NO THIRD CLASS NO JUST PASS

100% RESULT

STATE RANK - 03
DISTINCTION - 52
95% & ABOVE - 06
90% & ABOVE - 25
85% & ABOVE - 52
80% & ABOVE - 61

SUBJECT WISE 100 out of 100
KANNADA - 05
ENGLISH - 01
HINDI - 04
MATHS - 04
SOCIAL - 02

ADMISSIONS STARTED FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR CONTACT NO: 78990 41787